



Noelridge News

February 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 2

We Noelridge!



The 2023 NCC Leaders are shown during their Sunday worship service installation ceremony on January 15. Front row, from left: Theodore Bosenge, Bob Hagist, JoAnne Pruitt, Sandy Delay, Cathy Appleget, Katie Wehring, Paige Wehring, Sue Alliss, Rod Blocksome, Pete Sherman, Char Wilson, Leland Osmundson, Linda Osmundson, Bryon Stolba, Lisa Stolba, Sue Maier, Kellie Lala, Theresa Smith, Esther Hudson, Stu Davidson, JD Smith. Back row (toward left): Larry King, Kyle Wehring, (toward right): Lori Davidson, Linda Fisher, Walt Hargraves, Eva Kisling, Adam Carros, Ray Howe, Loren Kisling.



Food Court on Wednesday evening, January 18, was prepared and served by the Men of Noelridge Christian Church (MONCC). Serving Cierra and Chase in this picture were, from left: Kevin Spangelo, Pete Sherman and Rod Blocksome. In the background are Stu Davidson and JD Smith.



Elijah Barker (center) performs Special Music "Lead Me to the Cross," accompanied on piano at left by Cameron Sullenberger and William Arnold on drums (at center) during the NCC Sunday worship service on January 15.



Signs Along the Way



As the calendar turns once again, we find ourselves entering the month of Love. February has always been one of my least favorite months, if not my least favorite. I don't know if it's the silly, lovey, gushy, commercials on Television. Or the realization that while spring is coming, more than likely more snow is coming too. Something about February has always triggered a desire within to pull what little hair I have left on my head out. Yet, despite the winter blues and commercial holiday centered on chocolate, February also has a lesson to teach us. The lesson is simple... how to live in Love. On my personal Mount Rushmore of Singer/ Song writers is an artist by the name of Dan Fogelberg. Appropriately one of Dan's songs is titled, *A Love Like This*. The closing lyrics say this:

*A love like this is so hard to find
And so many never do
And loves like this, when they even exist
Are precious and few, you know they're precious and few*

*Down the miles, through the years
Yours is the star by which I steer, the brightest star I've known
And when I feel all hope is gone, yours is the love that leads me on
The light that guides me home
The light that guides me home
The light will guide me home*

This month marks the beginning of our Lenten Journey. Lent is a season in which we reflect in prayer, in which we fast, in which we give thanks to God for the gifts of this life. February may be a month of love. But it is God's love made known to us in Jesus Christ that is the true light which will guide us home. We find these words in the Gospel of John "In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men" John 1:4. I invite you this month to focus on Jesus. What does it mean to you, to follow his light? How can you live in love once again? I am looking forward to sharing in this month of love and light with each of you!

Grace + Peace,

Rev. Gregory S. Chambers



Pastor Gregory will be out of the office February 16-20. If you have any immediate needs please contact the Elders on Call for the month. Rev. Cindi McKee will be filling the pulpit on February 19th. You won't want to miss Rev. Cindi's powerful and uplifting message!

Pastor Gregory's regular office hours are 9 am to 3 pm, Monday-Thursday. You may also email him at gregory@noelridgechristian.org or give him a call at (319) 777-8216.



Church Happenings

Dear Church Family,

Exciting events happening for our Youth and Kids in February and in early March. These outings are designed to serve our kids and youth in the area of fellowship and a way to connecting to one another in Christ. Growing up in the Lord should be fun!

Sometimes the events are offered for either Youth or Kids, but mostly the events are for all ages. Please mark your calendars.

Sunday, February 12th, 11:15 am-2 pm: A Valentines Sunday for Youth and Kids - Pizza and Pizazz!

This afternoon is designed for parents to enjoy a leisurely lunch together or go shopping. We will watch a movie together, chomp on popcorn, and enjoy a pizza lunch. We encourage them to bring a friend. Parents will need to pick up your kiddos by 2pm. No cost to you, but donations are always welcome. Chaperones are welcome.

In early March, there is a Youth Only Event: Sunday, March 5: "McDonalds and The Escape Room" (Lindale parking lot)

Ages: Middle School and High School, 11:15--1:15pm

Church will cover one game in the escape room, but please bring \$10.00 to cover your lunch at Mickey Dees! Please bring only one friend. Donations are welcome. Chaperones needed.

In addition to these outings, NCC offers up a vibrant midweek lesson and also a Youth Group activity weekly. Also, there are choir or praise team for any kid interested in joining. Stay tuned as we add even more activities for our children and youth to be a part of!

PraiseBuilders (K-6) meet every Wednesday at 6pm. GodSquad (7-12) meets every Wednesday at 6 as well.

In His Love,

Cameron Sullenberger, SG Coordinator and JoAnne Pruitt, Asst SG Coordinator

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

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: 4:30 pm on the third Tuesday of every month.

WHERE: Restaurants in the Cedar Rapids area.

On February 21, we'll be at Bari Italian Restaurant at 450 1st Street SW, Cedar Rapids.

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

Note our new time: 4:30 pm



Celebrating Nathan Williams and his success at the Xperience Tennis Championship in Charlottesville, Virginia, January 7-11. Congrats, Nathan!



Africa is calling....

As many of you know, Africa gripped my heart in 2005 on my very first trip and helping the students at the Tumaini Schools has become my passion. I am so excited to share that I am leading a group of 14 eager travelers February 10th thru March 1st this year (and my 5th trip to Tanzania). Modest Bayo, Tumaini School founder will be our host while in Tanzania. His *Best of Africa* company has secured all our accommodations, tours, and such. We will be volunteering in the Tumaini schools which now cover 3 campuses: Primary (3 to 5-year old's), Junior (Kindergarten thru 7th grade) and Secondary (8th thru 12th grades). We will be visiting the FAME Medical Clinic and working in the Lake Eyasi Medical Clinic and the vocational school for women founded by Bayo's wife, Lightness. In addition to these mission activities, we will be visiting 3 game reserves to see the amazing African animals. We will also be "glamping" in the Serengeti for 4 unforgettable nights. This truly is a trip of a lifetime and I invite you to follow our itinerary at the link on the MailChimp with this newsletter or on our church website. The travelers include many of your church family - JD and Theresa Smith, Bryon and Lisa Stolba, Ken and Sue Maier and Ed and Joan Schaffer (now living in Colorado Springs). Also on the trip will be Patty Wise from Marion Christian Church, my sister-in-law Lorrie (married to my brother, Jay), two Mount Mercy Alumni Board Members and two friends of Lisa Stolba.

Can I please ask that you keep this group in your prayers for safe travel, good health and that our hearts will be open to these students and the people we encounter along the way? I know that we will find God each day and I look forward to sharing our adventure with you once we return.

Asanta Sana (thank you very much in Swahili)

Kellie Lala



Basket Bonanza



About 75 of the expected 200 Basket Bonanza preparations (left) are shown in this panoramic image from the south classroom on Sunday morning, January 15. Material for more baskets are seen at right.

Thank you Lord for holding Mother Nature back once again! As we approach the month of February Iowans know that we could still be in for some snow and cold temperatures before this winter is over.

Missions group is working each Tuesday afternoon and all day Friday in the warmth of a room full of boxes and completed Gift Baskets and a few women with lots of chatter. The Basket Bonanza fundraiser event will be here before we know it with sale dates set for Thursday March 30 thru Saturday April 1. At the Missions table please pick up a list of ideas for baskets and items we could use if you would prayerfully consider donating. In addition as time gets closer we will gratefully accept any assistance in curling ribbon, typing cards, cutting cards, assembling baskets and more – no experience or talent required!

Beyond the Basket Bonanza the 2nd Annual Spring Flower sale is set for May 10-13 and the 2nd Annual Car Show event is set for Saturday, July 1.

Mark all of these events on your calendars and spread the word as our fundraiser donations will be offered to community groups to better their cause. We will be asking for your help in many ways beginning with prayer for success with the fundraisers that we might help the less fortunate in our community.

If all of NCC works together with time, talent and generosity we will make a difference to many in our community. Thank you for your blessings. We hope God will lead you to be a part of the fundraiser events that Mission group is working on in 2023.

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

Linda Osmundson and Linda Fisher
Mission group Co-Chairs

Join us for Workshop Days: Tuesdays at noon and Fridays at 9 am. We'll be filling and tagging baskets and sorting new items. Come and help!



Silver Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Building



Fellowship Hall view of the Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening, March 14, 1998. Seen in the images are The Alexander Family with Mark Witham, Wayne & Arlene Shaw and Dave Martin, The Davidson Family, Roger, Mimi and Leora Welty.



Kitchen volunteers prepare food for the NCC Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening, March 14, 1998. At right is Karen Howe, who adapted words to the music "The Church's One Foundation" for the dedication event.





Individuals who were involved in the construction of the church's building were honored by Pastor Ron Connerly during the Recognition Banquet on Saturday evening, March 14, 1998. Top row, from left: Jeff Busbee, Walt Daniels, (Building Committee Chairman) Doug Forbes, Walt Hargraves. Bottom row: Russ Kauffman, Dave Martin, Arlene Shaw, Wayne Shaw. Seated right of Connerly is his wife Deb.



NCC Building Committee, March 15, 1998. Front row, from left: Betty Ellen Jenkins, (Chairman) Doug Forbes, Pastor Ron Connerly, Roger Welty, Karen Howe. Back row: JD Smith, Walt Hargraves, Sally Courtney. Not pictured was (Property Committee Chairman) Dan Steyne, and Bryon Stolba.



Pianist Suzanne Smith (left) and organist Carma Lou Beck play in unison during the NCC Dedication Day service on Sunday, March 15, 1998. The organ was also dedicated on this day.



Russ Kauffman reads from behind the pulpit at the Dedication Day Service.





Life Classes

Are you looking for a new way to deepen your faith? Are you seeking to learn more about Prayer, the Gospels, or the History of Church Hymns? Do you want to spend time walking and fellowshiping with your Church Family? Then we have good news! Beginning this Lent, we will be offering new Life Classes. Life Classes are informal gatherings centered on a special topic of study. Some examples include, a Bible Study centered on Max Lucado's Book, *He Choose the Nails* led by Pastor Gregory. A Life Class on Hymnology and Prayer, led by Cameron. Life Classes will meet at different times throughout the week. Be on the lookout for a schedule of Life Classes coming soon! If you are interested in leading a Life Class or have a special topic you would like to explore further, please reach out to Pastor Gregory.



We have received a number of reports over the last month about Church members receiving a text message from a number(s) claiming to be Pastor Gregory. Please block and report these number(s). It is the policy of NCC to never ask you for a favor, apple gift cards, or any monetary donation via text message. If you have any doubts, please contact the Church office before you respond to these requests. While you're thinking about, now would be a good time to add both Pastor Gregory's as well as the Church's Number to your Contact List.



On the Road to Jerusalem
Lenten Sermon Series

Easter (and Spring!) are coming. Ash Wednesday is February 22 and the first Sunday of Lent is February 26.



Kellie Lala shares this news from Tanzania and Modest Bayo of the Tumaini schools.:

Dear Kellie,
Thank you for your compliments to Lightness for her successful year of her community work done. I would like to give you a brief history below:
WILDAF Tz: Means:
"Women in Law & Development in Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania"
This NGO has 20 years of experience and excellent track record to advance women's rights and their status in Tanzania.
WILDAF- Tanzania is a Pan Africa Network Organization, Strategically linking Law and Development for the betterment of Women's across Tanzania. Every year there number of cases of women abused or women right or gender equality across the continents of Africa and the globe.
This time around there were 3,600 women nominees who have been voted in year 2022 to recognize their effort in supporting women development action plans to break the circle of poverty among few to mentioned. Lightness Bayo was among the 16 out of all successful candidates to be AWARD-ED as icon of fighters for women rights.
Her recognition was mentioned by the Global Women Lawyers Empowerment at the city of Dar es Salaam.
Asante, Mr. Bayo.



Children and leaders enjoy a project on January 22. (Thank you to Shelby Woodall for the photo!)



A Note From Cameron

Dear NCC and all who worship with us,

As we face a new year together, my prayer from a worship perspective is that we hide His words in our heart from the songs that we sing and from the awesome messages we receive each week. May we come together in a new era to proclaim the never changing and abundant love that our Lord gives to each of us each and every day, and may we share that love with those around us.

What an awesome opportunity set before us in 2023!

Here are the words from an Isaac Watts hymn that have been reimagined. It is by the group, Sojourn. The message in this song really moved me during my devotional times and I hope it touches you.

As we steadfastly walk together after the joy of the holiday season and into Lent and beyond, consider joining the choir, singing with the praise team, sharing in song as special music, or simply supporting us as we help lead you in worship each Sunday. Be open to wherever the Holy Spirit might lead us....we might all be pleasantly surprised and blessed. May God be glorified.

Let me hear my Savior say
"Your strength shall return."
Then I'll rejoice in my weakness
As I lean on your grace.
As I lean on your grace.
Chorus:
May your power rest on me.
You are strong when I am weak.
I can bear all things when temptation springs
For you sustain me all my days.
Let me know my Savior's face.
Let my hope be secure.
Then I'll rejoice in my weakness
As I lean on your grace.
As I lean on your grace.
Chorus:
May your power rest on me.
You are strong when I am weak.
I can bear all things when temptation springs
For you sustain me all my days.

Once from the Lord withdrawn
I thought that I could live my life alone
Leaving the solid ground
I sank beneath his wisdom
The harder I tried to climb
The closer I was to find
How great is my weakness
Chorus:
May your power rest on me
You are strong when I am weak
I can bear all things when temptation springs
For you sustain me all my days
Though the trial still goes on
Your grace will be my song
For I can bear all things when temptation springs
For you sustain me all my days.
May your power rest on me.
May your power rest on me.

—Written by Joel Gerdis and Neil Robins



**With God's unending love,
Cameron Sullenberger
Senior Director of Music, Worship and Creative Arts**



The Season of Lent is nearly upon us. Join us for a special service of remembrance as we celebrate the fullness of life's journey from "Dust to Dust." Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM on February 22. A lite food court will be held prior to the service at 5:15 PM.



All of the Men of the Church are invited to join us on Saturday February 11th at 9:00 AM for Men's Breakfast. We'll have coffee on by 8:00 AM. If you would like to assist with cooking breakfast please reach out to Pastor Gregory. See you there!



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Jerry Duball	February 1
Pauline Goldsberry	February 2
Kathryn Chambers	February 4
Gregg Alliss	February 8
Trudy Stewart	February 11
Gracie Good	February 13
Marilyn Butler	February 15
Denise Piper	February 16
Carolyn Smith	February 16
Brett Breberg	February 17
Magnolia Groves	February 19
John Alexander	February 21
Mimi Welty	February 22
Hannah Davidson	February 26



Happy Anniversary!

Rod & Elizabeth Blocksome	February 8
Gerald & Pat Hopper	February 17

For Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact our pastor, Gregory Chambers. Alternatively, two of our Elders are "on call" each month.

For February, the Elders "on call" are:

Walt Hargraves (319) 929-9967
Pete Sherman (509) 230-2228

Thanks for the Memories!

Thank you, Gregg Alliss, for providing most of the photos and all of the great historical information in our newsletter. We appreciate your work!

New Members



Pastor Gregory Chambers (left) welcomes Kay and Dan Mineck as new NCC members at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service on January 8. Looking on at right is Elder Lori Davidson.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Chuck Kitzman
1426 Crossings Ct. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402







Moment In NCC History



The NCC Praise Team performs during the contemporary service on Sunday, February 5, 2012. From left are: Elizabeth Blocksome, Skylar Stefani, (NCC Music Director at piano) Cameron Sullenberger, Jeff Busbee, Cindy Smith, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Josh Bruegge and Kay Alexander.



Calendar

February 2023						
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			1 Wednesday Schedule	2 	3 Basket Workshop 9 am Craft Group 1 pm	4
5 Sunday Schedule	6 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	7 MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins mtg. 9:30 Staff mtg. 10 am Basket Workshop 12pm GloryBound 6:30	8 Wednesday Schedule Steering Board mtg. 6 pm	9	10 Basket Workshop 9 am	11 Men's Breakfast 9 am
12 Sunday Schedule Pizza & Pizazz (kids/youth) 11:30-2 pm	13	14  MOPS Leaders- 9-11:15 am Collins mtg. 9:30 Basket Workshop 12pm	15 Wednesday Schedule	16 Newsletter Deadline - Noon	17 Basket Workshop 9 am	18 Private mtg 11 am - 12 pm
19 Sunday Schedule Rev. Cindi McKee Guest Pastor	20  Church Office closed	21 MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins mtg. 9:30 Basket Workshop 12pm NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30	22 Food Court 5:15 Ash Wednesday Service 6 pm	23	24 Basket Workshop 9 am	25
26	27 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	28 Collins mtg. 9:30 Wake Up Ladies 9 am Basket Workshop 12pm	Regular Wednesday Schedule 5:30 pm Food Court 6:00 pm PraiseBuilders & God Squad 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			
						



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

Return Service Requested



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February 2023

Volume 67, Issue 2

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Rev. Gregory Chambers
gregory@noelridgechristian.org

Cameron Sullenberger, Senior Director of
Worship, Music and Creative Arts
cameron.sullenberger@noelridgechristian.org

Church Elders

Lori Davidson
Diana Ellingson
Walt Hargraves
Carol Hedberg
Karen Howe
Kellie Lala
Sue Maier
Peter Sherman
Theresa Smith
Lisa Stolba

Board Officers

Moderator - Kyle Wehring
Moderator Elect - Sue Maier
Secretary - Theresa Smith
Financial Secretary - Sue Alliss
Treasurer - Sue Alliss
Trustee - Rod Blocksom
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

