



# Noelridge News

March 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 3



## Mourning, Honoring, Remembering Cameron Sullenberger

NCC's Senior Director of Worship, Music and Creative Arts, Cameron Sullenberger, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 11, 2023. At left, the empty grand piano is shown on that Saturday evening, during the NCC prayer service held in remembrance of Cameron. The black & white photo signifies the color gone out of our world following his passing.



A funeral service for Cameron was held on Saturday, February 18, at 11 am at NCC. Shawndell Young is shown playing piano while he sang, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Pastor Cindi McKee officiated, assisted by Walt Hargraves.



At left: Flowers from our congregation in honor of Cameron.

At right: Cameron's office on Sunday, February 12.



*More photos on pages 7 & 9*



## Signs Along the Way



Many people of faith have “Go-To” passages of scripture that we turn to in times of uncertainty and uneasiness. The familiar words of these passages offer something to us that our souls need to hear time and time again. Maybe it is encouragement that we need to face the day. Maybe our souls long for connection to God. Perhaps we need the courage to face the giants of our life circumstances. Whatever the need of our soul is, in these moments of life, these passages speak life to us. One of my “Go-To” passages is found in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes where we read these words:

*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:  
 a time to be born and a time to die;  
 a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
 a time to kill and a time to heal;  
 a time to break down and a time to build up;  
 a time to weep and a time to laugh;  
 a time to mourn and a time to dance;  
 a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;  
 a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;  
 a time to seek and a time to lose;  
 a time to keep and a time to throw away;  
 a time to tear and a time to sew;  
 a time to keep silent and a time to speak;  
 a time to love and a time to hate;  
 a time for war and a time for peace.”*

One of the many reasons I think I come back to this passage time and time again is that this passage puts our life in perspective. Everything that we have is a gift from God. The air we breathe, the songs we sing, the food we eat. Yet, how do we spend our time? Do we spend our time sewing or tearing? Do we spend our time throwing away stones or gathering stones together? Ultimately, this passage points to one of those big questions of life, “How do you want to live?” While it is true that all of these have a place and a season of time under Heaven, it is up to each of us to choose how much time we allocate to these things. So choose, to laugh, to dance, to build up, to live your life in a way that reflects the gift that God has entrusted to you. It may seem strange at first, but then you’ll realize that you have a great big family of faith here at Noelridge Christian Church that is joining you on this journey under Heaven. It is an honor to be your minister.

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](mailto:gregory@noelridgechristian.org) or give him a call at (319)-777-8216.





## Church Happenings

### Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Maralene J.  
Family of Cameron S.  
Jodi, daughter of Linda F.  
Family of Karen M.  
Family of Jan M.  
Gaye R.  
Craig and Tammy W., son and daughter-in-law  
of Darrell and Gail L.  
Sue A.



**NCC Ladies**



NFL will meet for dinner at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 21, and Wake Up Ladies will meet for coffee at 9 am on Tuesday, March 28. Both groups will be determining a location soon, so watch for announcements in your bulletin insert.



Men's NCC breakfast in Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, February 11. Clockwise, from foreground left: Gregory Chambers, Loren Kisling, Ray Howe, Gregg Alliss, Tom McKee, Dan Buenz, Bob Hagist, Russ Kauffman, Al Anderson, Rod Blocksom, John Wilson, Nathan Williams, Pete Sherman, Dave Martin, Walt Hargraves.



The Men of Noelridge will be gathering on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM for Men's Breakfast. The food will be hot and fresh. The coffee will be on around 8:00 AM, so come and join us for a good time of fellowship with one another.



Kathryn Chambers displays the birthday cake made for her in the NCC kitchen (left) before the Sunday worship service on February 5. At right, the congregation sings "Happy Birthday to You" to her in the Fellowship Hall following the service.



Stu Davidson (left) and Bryon Stolba shovel snow from the front entrance before church services on Sunday morning, January 29. Air temperature was 5 degrees F, with wind chills at -7 degrees. Bryon had plowed the parking lot about an hour earlier.





Dear Noelridge Family,

I'm a long-time NCC member who has "worn a lot of hats" at our church, but now I'm honored to introduce myself as an incoming Elder for 2023. I'm also Worship committee chair, Mentor Mom coordinator for our MOPS group, and (thanks to encouragement I received from Cameron) I have the privilege of singing with the Praise Team and the Chancel Choir, as well as playing guitar and singing with GloryBound. I've been helping out in the office a bit, too, after finishing being the

"temporary admin assistant" for a couple of years.

My husband, Ray, and I have two married sons: Justin and Mallory live in Marion and Collin and Jackie and their two boys, Ethan (4) and Evan (2), live in Minnesota.

Life always brings change. We at Noelridge have been going through some difficult changes at the end of this winter. But, now that we are in March, one of my favorite changes is on the way—spring.

It's also Lent, the period of forty days (not including Sundays) before Easter. Some people follow the tradition of giving something up for Lent, usually a food it seems (often chocolate). I find it much more inspiring to add something for Lent, like a daily meditation or Bible study. That way, Easter is the special culmination of days of meaningful moments spent preparing for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection and not just the day that chocolate can be consumed at last.

One could pick a book of the Bible, read a few verses each day and spend time in thought and prayer. An author of meditations that I enjoy is Sarah Young with her "Jesus Calling" books. Maybe you would enjoy singing a hymn every day. You can find the words to all of your favorites on your phone or computer. (try Hymnary.org)

However you decide to recognize it, may you have a blessed and special Lent this spring.

And enjoy that chocolate (even if you wait until Easter to do so).

Blessings, Karen



*As many of you know, I've been putting the newsletters together since late 2020. Gregg Alliss takes most of the photos for the newsletters. (Thank you, Gregg!) When he sent me this one of special music on January 29, I didn't know how special it would become to me. It's the last time my family sang together with Cameron. On the guitar is my son, Justin, and on the banjo, my husband, Ray. Pastor Gregory is making his NCC debut on the electric bass. Smiling while we play (yay for that), is Elder Kellie Lala. And our frontman is the ever-so-missed, Cameron Sullenberger.*

*Karen*





## Missions Moment

### **BASKET BONANZA - COMING SOON**

We are currently working to assemble gift baskets with “goodies” on Tuesday afternoons and all day on Fridays. 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.

Culmination of the event will be **Thursday, March 30, Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1**. We have approximately 150 baskets completed and are hoping to have 200 baskets completed by sale date as this will replace the spring rummage sale as a fundraiser.

The proceeds from the Basket Bonanza will go to the Community Health Free Clinic which provides free medical, dental, vision and prescription services for individuals without access to or ability to pay for health care. They never charge for services and are not reimbursed by the government. They are funded strictly by donations, foundations and corporations. Volunteers are vital to success of this clinic. Health professionals to clerical staff to building maintenance all donate their time and skills. In 2021, 6% of all contributions came from area churches. We are pleased to direct profits from Basket Bonanza to the Community Health Free Clinic in honor of our own beloved friend, Cameron Sullenberger.

Time is quickly closing in on the date for this project. We are still in need of items to complete unfinished baskets. Lists are available on the table in fellowship hall. Easter Candy, snack food, chocolate are also needed. You can create your own basket but please complete them by March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help but don't have time or ability to shop for items, cash donations are very welcome. Any amount is helpful. It's surprising what can be done with every \$10 or \$20. Use the envelopes on the table in Fellowship Hall or give donations to Linda F, Linda O or Trudy S. Thanks to each of you that have already helped in any way and also to those of you who will.

The Missions Group has also started planning for the **Spring Plant Sale** (week of May 8<sup>th</sup>) and the **Car Show** (July 1). More details to come soon on these events.

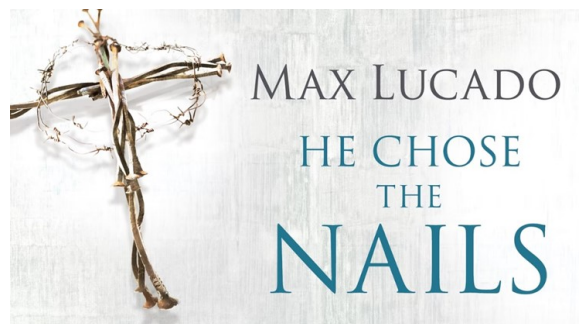
Please join the Missions Group as we share the love Christ brings to our lives that we might share His love with those near and far every day in the coming months!



### **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: Mar. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 4, Apr. 18, May 2, May 16. To sign up or 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.



Make plans to join us on Wednesday nights after Food Court, during Lent beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> for “He Chose the Nails.” This video study series explores the ways in which the love of God was made known to us through Jesus Christ. This Life Class will meet in the Conference Room from 6:05-6:40 PM.



# Noelridge Africa Adventurers

From February 10 through the 28th, fifteen members and friends visited the Tumaini School in Tanzania, as well as enjoyed an exciting itinerary of game-viewing safari, camping on the Serengeti, sight-seeing and being immersed in African culture. Look for an opportunity to enjoy their stories and photographs soon.



The NCC Chancel Choir performs the special music number "Siyahamba (Marching in the Light of God)" in tribute and send-off to members of the African Mission and Adventure Safari 2023 during the Sunday worship service on February 5. Accompanying on the Djembe at left is drummer William Arnold. At right is Pastor Gregory Chambers and Elder Theresa Smith. Front row, from left: Diana Ellingson, Elizabeth Blocksome, Trudy Stewart. Middle row: Vannessia Klinksky, Sandy Klein, Kim Anderson. Back row: Randy Walton, Pete Sherman, Elijah Barker, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss. (Sue Alliss photo)



Pastors Gregory Chambers (left) and Cindi McKee (right) lay hands on members of the African Mission and Adventure Safari 2023 as they bless them during the Sunday worship service on February 5, before their upcoming trip to Tanzania, Africa from February 10-28. From left: Ken Maier, Sue Maier, Bryon Stolba, Lisa Stolba, Kellie Lala, Theresa Smith, JD Smith.



## Safe Arrival!

Our group of travelers arrived safe and sound, though a bit weary, after the 36-hour ground and air trip. Though they might be tired, they look excited for their adventures!

They are scheduled to return to Cedar Rapids on March 1.







In this collage by Gregg Alliss, the photo in the upper left corner is of Cameron Sullenberger's first official Sunday with us. The original caption read, "New NCC Music Director Cameron Sullenberger sings solo, 'I Need a Silent Night,' during NCC's Christmas service on Sunday, December 20, 2009."

More history from Gregg:

Cameron Sullenberger was formally introduced to the congregation as the new NCC Music Director during the church's Christmas program on Sunday, December 20, 2009. A motion by the church to offer him the position had been approved earlier by board members at a December 14 meeting and was subsequently accepted by Cameron. Cameron had been serving as interim music director since November 15, 2009. He had been recommended for the position by previous co-interim music directors Matthew and Shelley Armstrong. Cameron transferred his membership to NCC at the conclusion of the December 19, 2010, Sunday worship service.

His role was expanded on October 8, 2016, when in addition to Music Director he became NCC Co-Children, Youth & Adult Ministry Coordinator with Jen Olsen.

At a congregational meeting on December 5, 2021 a full-time position as NCC Senior Director of Worship, Music and Creative Arts for Cameron was approved. The position went into effect on June 12, 2022.



### PASTORS' CLASS

Are you interested in learning more about Baptism? Do you want to become a member of Noelridge Christian Church but you're not sure how? On March 4<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:30 AM, please join Gregory for Pastors' Class. These meetings will explore what it means to be Baptized into the Christian Faith. We will discuss becoming a member of Noelridge Christian Church. And Gregory will answer most of the burning questions in your mind like, "Why do we take Communion every Sunday?" If you would like more information, please reach out to Gregory.



### Happy Birthday, Kellie!

This photo was taken during our Building Dedication celebration for our current building in 1998. Kellie Lala was the first baby born (March 27) to our congregation after it was chartered and is shown here with her mother, Charter Member Donna Lala.



## Upcoming Youth Events

**Middle School & High School Outing**  
Sunday, March 5, 11:15 am to 1:15 pm  
**McDonalds and the Escape Room**

Eat lunch together and experience the Escape Room at Spare Time. NCC will pay for the Escape Room, but youth will need money for lunch. Youth are welcome to bring one friend. Donations are welcome. Parents, take and pick up your kids. Chaperones are needed.

**Lunch & Flyer Distribution**  
Sunday, March 19, after church

Missions Group and GodSquad will distribute Basket Bonanza sale flyers after church. We will have lunch before we head out to the mall/stores' parking lots. We will need parents' help, too!

Please see Carolyn Smith if you have questions.



Kathryn Chambers leads the Children's Moment during the NCC Sunday worship service on February 12. Kathryn illustrated solid foundations to the kids.







This display was created by our GodSquad youth group at NCC and was much appreciated at the visitation event in honor of Cameron Sullenberger held from 3 pm to 8 pm on Friday, February 17.

While everyone was touched at the sentiments shared, Cameron's students, past and present, were noticed to be especially careful to read all of the notes on the display and were heard to respond "Yes!" and have a little smile as they shared in the thoughts.

Thank you to our GodSquad and leader, Carolyn Smith, for this gift in Cameron's remembrance.





## Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



## Happy Birthday!

Justin Howe	March 1
Zoey Lightfoot	March 3
Marty Roland	March 4
Adam Carros	March 5
Russ Kauffman	March 6
Rachel Good	March 7
David Martin	March 7
Sue Hill	March 8
Karen Howe	March 8
JoAnne Pruitt	March 8
Sondra Caughron	March 10
Randy Northway	March 15
Sally Courtney	March 16
Bev Stratton	March 19
Gaye Roberts	March 21
Robert Hagist	March 23
Kellie Lala	March 27
Nick Groves	March 28
Robin McVeigh	March 30
Sharon Wilcox	March 30



## Happy Anniversary!

Loren & Eva Kisling	March 1
Roger & Mimi Welty	March 14
Kevin & Amy Spangelo	March 30

### 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 March, the Elders on call are:

Lori Davidson (319) 551-0575  
Kellie Lala (319) 721-1820

## New Member



Ken Maier (left) is welcomed as a new NCC member by Pastor Gregory Chambers at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service on January 29. Looking on is Ken's wife, Sue, and Elder Kellie Lala (right).

## Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Darrell Long  
616 Broderick Drive NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



## Moment In NCC History



The NCC high school youth group, led by Kellie Lala (standing, background left), filled plastic Easter eggs with candy in the youth room following the Palm Sunday service on March 24, 2013. Seated (clockwise from foreground left): Katie Stastny, Hanna McVeigh, Justin Howe, Dane Schaffer, Skylar Stefani, Nick Bast, Marina Bittner. Bittner was a German exchange student in the care of the Stu and Lori Davidson family.





5:30 pm Food Court  
6:00 pm PraiseBuilders & God Squad  
6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### March 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <b>Regular Sunday Schedule</b> 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School			<b>1</b> Wednesday Schedule  Life Class 6 - 6:40 pm	<b>2</b> Collins mtg. 4 pm	<b>3</b> Basket Workshop 9am	<b>4</b> Pastor's Class 9 - 10:30 am
<b>5</b> Sunday Schedule Youth & Kids McDonalds & Escape Room 11:15 am to 2 pm	<b>6</b> Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	<b>7</b> MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins 9:30 am Staff mtg. 10 am Basket Workshop 12 pm GloryBound 6:30	<b>8</b> Wednesday Schedule  Life Class 6 - 6:40 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Basket Workshop 9am	<b>11</b> Men's Breakfast 9 am  Pastor's Class 9 - 10:30 am
<b>12</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>13</b> Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	<b>14</b> MOPS Leaders- 9-11:15 am Collins 9:30 am Basket Workshop 12 pm	<b>15</b> Spring Break (no youth pro- grams or Food Court)  Choir 6:45 pm	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline 12 pm Card Ministry 1:30 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	<b>17</b>  Basket Workshop 9am  Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Sunday Schedule  GodSquad and Missions - Lunch & Flyer Distribu- tion after church	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> MOPS - 9:00- 11:15 am Collins 9:30 am Staff mtg. 10 am Basket Workshop 12 pm NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30	<b>22</b> Wednesday Schedule  Life Class 6 - 6:40 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Basket Workshop 9am	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>27</b> Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>28</b> Collins 9:30 am  Wake Up Ladies 9 am	<b>29</b> Wednesday Schedule  Life Class 6 - 6:40 pm	<b>30</b> Basket Bonanza Noon to 8 pm	<b>31</b> Basket Bonanza 9 am to 6 pm	<b>April 1</b> Basket Bonanza 9 am to 3 pm
	Basket Bonanza Preparation Days					



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

**Return Service Requested**



# Noelridge News

March 2023  
Volume 67, Issue 3

## Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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office@noelridgechristian.org

Rev. Gregory Chambers  
gregory@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 - Adam Carros

## 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





# Remembering Cameron

Collages by Gregg Alliss









