



Noelridge News

April 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 4

Make Way For the Lord!



Holy Week at Noelridge

April 2nd

Palm Sunday Worship @ 9:45 AM

April 5th

Wednesday Night Activities @ 5:30 PM

April 6th

Maundy Thursday Service @ 6:30 PM

April 7th

The Voices of Good Friday @ 6:30 PM

April 9th

Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:30 AM

Fellowship Breakfast @ 8:30 AM

Easter Celebration Worship @ 9:45 AM

Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:00 AM



The Spiritual Growth Team is in need of your assistance in preparing for this Year's Egg Hunt on Easter Morning. We are trying something new this year as the Hunt will be taking place after our Celebration Worship. We're excited about this amazing event! We have need of the following items:

Individually Wrapped Candies (Small or Mini Size works best)

*Your Children and Grandchildren
Lots of Smiles and Laughter*

If you have any questions please reach out to either JoAnne Pruitt or Pastor Gregory.



Signs Along the Way



Have you taken a walk outside this week? The air is warming. The wind is blowing from the south instead of the north. Trees are beginning to show signs of waking from their winter slumber. It would appear that spring is on its way. As I am learning this year, spring comes a little later in Iowa than in Texas. As Kathryn reminded me the other day, this is about the time I would begin mowing the grass. We'd be preparing to plant tomatoes and summer vegetables. While it might be fun to mow over the remaining remnants of snow, I am grateful for this time of year in which the Earth seems to stretch.

The hours of sunlight stretch further into the night. The warmth of the day stretches longer into the coolness of the eve. Truly this is a season of stretching. Perhaps that is why I love the imagery of Easter morning. It's a time when our minds are stretched beyond what we have known.

A grave that was supposed to be occupied is found to be empty. A stone guarding the path, thrown to the side. A Rabbi who died on Friday, is the Messiah who is alive on Sunday. Spring is a time of awakening. It is also a Season of Resurrection. A season of new life taking place before our eyes. In the spring we are called to stretch, to become something new. As a people of faith, Easter represents the beginning of our stretching season. The time when our hearts, minds, and souls are opened to the new possibilities of God working in our life. This spring will you join me in this Season of Stretching? Will you join me in this Season of Resurrection?

Grace + Peace,

-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.



Pastor Gregory Chambers delivers his sermon message "The Invitation Stands" to the congregation during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 12.



Church Happenings

Prayer Requests



Please be in prayer for:

Christopher, son of Bonnie P.
Bonnie P.'s sister-in-law
Jack, student of Lisa S.
David, son of David and Susan H.
Mother of Laurie M.
Char W.
Stephanie W., friend of Amy S.
Family of Joe and Carmen F.
Nephew of Joanne S.
Sue A.
Theodore B. and his fiancée, Mwamba T.



Make plans to join us for our 5th Sunday Potluck on April 30th. Bring your favorite Potluck dish and your appetite! Be on the lookout for more information in the Sunday Bulletin Insert.



GloryBound performs special music "The World Is Not My Home" during the NCC Sunday worship service on February 26, 2023. From left: JoAnne Pruitt, Rebecca Roush, Trudy Stewart, Kim Anderson, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Ray Howe, Phil Roush.



NFL

aka

Noelridge "famished" 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 April 18, we'll be at Bricks Bar & Grill at 320 2nd Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids. Parking: TCR park ramp or 2nd Avenue street.

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, April 25, at 9 am at Roasters Coffee House at 1059 N. Center Point Road in Hiawatha. Come join us!

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



Men of NCC, breakfast is at 9 am on Saturday, April 15th. Coffee is on at 8:30. Don't miss it!



Elder Moment

From Theresa Smith



Greetings Noelridge Family! As one of your new elders, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. Because I've already been hanging around here for almost 18 years, I will focus on what you may not know about me.

I was not raised in the Disciples of Christ church, but in the Catholic church. I eventually came to the point where I could no longer ignore my inner voice telling me the Catholic church specific rules and additions to Christian doctrine and my Christian beliefs were incompatible. I had been church shopping when a friend of mine, a licensed minister in the United Church of Christ, and a cohort of hers steered me toward the Disciples of Christ. In many ways Disciples of Christ was a good fit because communion is important to me and I wanted to celebrate communion every Sunday. The belief of communion being open to everyone who believes in Jesus as the Christ also aligned with my personal belief about communion. Communion, as a remembrance of the last supper, draws me in to a fuller realization of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us as imperfect human beings. It is a source of strength for me, and a weekly encouragement in my journey to be a more faithful Christian.

When I was planning my move back to Iowa (I was born and raised in Iowa) from North Platte, NE, my minister loaned me his DOC directory so I could check out the churches in the areas in which I was looking for jobs. Once I decided to move to Cedar Rapids, I came to Noelridge and was immediately welcomed and connected with church members who had similar backgrounds as I did. The first two members were Walt Hargraves (retired military) and Teresa Williams (RN). This made me feel very welcome and included and I knew I had found my new church family. The rest is history.

The first Sunday in March, Pastor Gregory talked to us about Mary & Martha. I found this timely as I have a devotional calendar entitled, "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World," by Joanna Weaver. It is about finding balance between my Martha persona and my Mary persona. I find myself being more of a Martha but trying to spiritually grow a more Mary like heart. I grew up reciting memorized prayers, having scripture interpreted for me, and "working" my way towards heaven. I am now loving that I am learning wonderful things, like praying my feelings, thankfulness, concerns, joys, and fears with God, rather than rattling off memorized words at Him. I am learning to set aside time to talk and listen to God, even before all my To-Do List is done. I am enjoying reading the Bible and contemplating what I think about what I have read. I look forward to continuing my spiritual growth in the loving, supportive Christian family that is Noelridge Christian Church. God Bless you all! Keep your Mary and Martha teeter totter going. We need both!

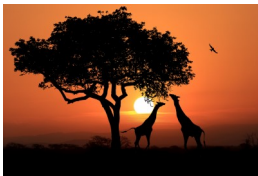
God Bless,
Theresa Smith
Rookie Elder



NCC Youth and Chaperones Make a Great Escape (or maybe not)



On March 5, NCC kids, youth and chaperones enjoyed lunch at McDonalds and an Escape Room experience. Whether they managed to escape or remained trapped, it looks like a great time was had by all!



Out of Africa

Uploading hundreds of photos from SIM cards to external hard drives during the picture meeting on Tuesday evening, March 14, in Fellowship Hall are clockwise, from left: Patty Wise, Peg Detweiler, Kellie Lala, Theresa Smith, Kathy Herwehe, Lisa Stolba, Sue Maier. The photos were from the recent African Mission and Adventure Safari 2023 in Tanzania.

We look forward to hearing about the trip! Watch for an announcement of an opportunity to hear from the group.





Above: Randy Walton (behind piano) reads an inspirational message from the Book of Esther before leading chancel choir practice on Wednesday evening, March 1. Choir members, from left are: Diana Ellingson, Trudy Stewart, Kim Anderson, Paige Wehring, Elizabeth Blocksome, JoAnne Pruitt, Karen Howe, Karen Martin, Carol Hedberg, Max Lightfoot, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Tom Ohrt, Ray Howe. Not pictured was Gregg Alliss.

At right: The NCC Chancel Choir performs "Lead Me, Lord," accompanied on piano by Randy Walton during the Sunday worship service on March 5. Choir members are, from left: Kim Anderson, Paige Wehring, Kay Alexander, Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Trudy Stewart, Elizabeth Blocksome, Max Lightfoot, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Ray Howe. (Katie Ginther photo)



Flocked front NCC lawn from frost, seen on Sunday morning, March 5. Temperature was sub-freezing. Green grass and warmer temperatures will follow!



Amanda Freese (center) directs the NCC Chancel Choir in the practice of the song, "In Christ Alone," on Wednesday evening, March 22. Accompanying on piano is Randy Walton. Amanda has volunteered to direct music for NCC through the Lenten season. She has been music director at Marion High School, Francis Marion Intermediate School and currently teaches talented and gifted students.



Basket Bonanza



The NCC south classroom is shown bountifully stocked with Basket Bonanza items on Wednesday evening, March 1.

By the time you read this, the Basket Bonanza will be over and we will have a lot fewer baskets in the basket storage room! We would like to thank all those who supported this project monetarily, donated items used in the basket assembly or who worked the basket sale days, as this made the Basket Bonanza a huge success!

We will now begin planning for NCC's next fundraiser, which is the 2nd Annual Plant Sale to be held on Wednesday, May 10 thru Saturday, May 13th. This will be just before the Mother's Day weekend, so we hope we will have lots of buyers from the community and NCC. We will be purchasing plants on Tuesday, May 9, from growers for the sale and look forward to this being a great fundraiser for Noelridge Church. We thank you in advance for your support of this project!!!

These community outreach events are showing the community Noelridge's kindness and love for each other. It is also a great opportunity for Noelridge members to spread Christ's love for the community at these events!



Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter President Mark Conzet (podium) speaks about his organization during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 19. *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* builds beds for under-privileged children in Linn County via donated funds. Standing right of Conzet is Linda Osmundson, who presented him with a missions check following his talk. Seated in the background at left are Pastor Gregory Chambers and Elder Kellie Lala.





Sewing Group Meeting at NCC

Here's a message and an invitation from a new group utilizing space at NCC (currently the large classroom on the south side that used to be the youth room):

Our group is called "The Sewing Room." It was started about 9 years ago by two women. Both had a loved one who became an organ donor. Originally, four women sewed. Today, we have about twenty-five people participating. Last year, we donated 220 quilts—the majority of which went to the Iowa Donor Network. We also donate to: Families Helping Families—which serves children in foster care; Waypoint—which serves families who have left an abusive relationship; Catherine McCauley Center—which serves immigrants; and Willis Dady Homeless Services. We also sew tops for our charity outreach for Eastern Iowa Heirloom Quilters and pet pillows for Cedar Valley Humane Society.

We would welcome anyone who would like to sew with us on Thursday or Friday on the dates listed below. If you would like to learn to quilt, we would love to share our skills with you. Just let Lynne in the office know to get a phone number for materials previous to the class.

Time: 9 am to 5 pm

Dates: April 27-28

May 25-26

June 22-23

July 27-28

August 24-26

September 28-29

October 26-27

November 16-17

December 28-29



Pastor Gregory Chambers (standing, right) introduces the Life Class to attenders on Wednesday evening, March 1. This was the first of the classes that will be held through Lent, and featured the Max Lucado video, "He Chose the Nails." (This photo was taken before the room became so full that there wasn't room to bring more chairs in. The tables had to be removed to make room for more chairs for subsequent classes.)



Kathryn Chambers engages a group as a "human pretzel" during Praise Builders on Wednesday evening, March 1. The exercise was to show how we as humans can get ourselves knotted up and in a mess, but with God's help we can find a solution. From left: Kathryn, Hank, Zoey, Aiden and Karen Martin.





Substitute piano accompanist Michelle Gibson leads the Praise Team in the singing of the communion hymn "In This Very Room" during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 19. Praise Team members are from left: Elijah Barker, Elizabeth Blocksome and Kay Alexander.

A Note From the Property Group

If you have a request for the Property Group, please use the **Work Order Request Forms** that are available in the "holder" by the custodial closet (across from kitchen serving window). Thank You!



Pastor Gregory Chambers (center) leads communion during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 12. Flanking him are Elders Kellie Lala (left) and Lisa Stolba. Deacons are, from left: Leland Osmundson, Bob Hagist, JD Smith and Esther Hudson.



Praise Builders at the Fun Station

On Sunday, April 30, following the Potluck dinner, PraiseBuilders will enjoy a trip to the Fun Station at 200 Collins Road, NE (formerly the Play Station).

Parent chaperones are encouraged to join the group. (and you must not leave JoAnne behind in a ball pit this time) Mark your calendar for fun!



Unless otherwise credited, photos in our newsletter are provided by Gregg Alliss. Thank you, Gregg!



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Kyle Wehring	April 2
Cindy Huovinen	April 3
Isabel Sherman	April 3
Elizabeth Norman	April 6
Kay Alexander	April 8
Margery Alderman	April 9
Patricia Hopper	April 9
Dan Buenz	April 11
Larry Chambers	April 17
Gregory Chambers	April 18
Eva Kisling	April 26
Char Osmundson	April 27
Dan Mineck	April 29

Happy Anniversary!

John & Sondra Caughron
Randy & Julia Rula
Jim & JoAnne Pruitt

April 3
April 24
April 27



Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Jennette McClurg
5710 Gibson Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411



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 April, the Elders "on call" are:

Karen Howe (319) 573-7630
Sue Maier (319) 651-3520

Moment In NCC History

NCC cast and crew from "The Choice," performed on April 1 and April 2, 1999. Rehearsals for this Lenten production performance began on February 3, and included 15 separate scenes, two dress rehearsals and two performances (on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday). Headliner actor/singers included Larry Goudzwaard as Jesus, and Gene & Toni LeVasseur as Marcus and Hannah. The program was directed by Karen Howe, sets by Annette Busbee and makeup by Paul & Cindy Smith.

Challenge: Can you name the unknown (?) actors?






First row, from left: Karen Howe, Alex Busbee, Brandon Busbee, Joe Heaverlo, Steve Packer, Gregg Alliss, Tony Campbell, John Lund. Second row: Annette Busbee, Jeff Busbee, Carolyn Caylor, Megan LeVasseur, Sonya Krivanek, Tessa LeVasseur, Collin Howe, (?), (?), Josh Bruegge, Karen Martin, Shirley Wellington-Bruegge, Clo Yates, Gwen McGovern. Third row: Ron Connerly, Carl Hoffman, Gene LeVasseur, Larry Goudzwaard, Toni LeVasseur, Elizabeth Blocksome, Walt Hargraves, Donna Lala, Kellie Lala, Paul Smith, Cindy Smith. Fourth row: Diane Rothrock, Derek LeVasseur, Ed Schaffer, Steve Hannah, Walt Daniels, Ray Howe, (?), David Pattison, Russ Kauffman, Reed Leamon.



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

April 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <p>Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 11 am - Life Class</p> 						1 Basket Bonanza 9 am to 3 pm
2  Palm Sunday Sunday Schedule	3 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	4 MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30	5 Wednesday Schedule Life Class - 6 pm	6 Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm Crafts - 1 pm	7 Good Friday Service 6:30 pm Crafts - 1 pm	8
9  Easter SonRise Service 7:30 am Breakfast 8:30 Worship 9:45 am Egg Hunt 11 am	10 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	11 MOPS Leaders- 9-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	12 Wednesday Schedule	13	14 Crafts - 1 pm	15 Men's Breakfast 9 am
16 Sunday Schedule	17	18 MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am NFL - 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30	19 Wednesday Schedule	20 Newsletter Deadline - Noon	21 Crafts - 1 pm	22
23 Sunday Schedule 30 Sunday Schedule Potluck - 11 am PraiseBuilders at The Fun Station	24 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	25 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	26 Wednesday Schedule	27 Sewing Group 9 am to 5 pm	28 Sewing Group 9 am to 5 pm Crafts - 1 pm	29



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



Noelridge News

April 2023
Volume 67, Issue 4

Return Service Requested

Contact Us

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

Lynne Kerling
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

Lori Davidson
Diana Ellingson
Walt Hargraves
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

