



Noelridge News

June 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 6

Summer is Here!



Flowers and plant inventories are shown from NCC's front entrance on the first day of the church's Plant Sale. The sale ran from Wednesday, May 10, to Saturday, May 13.



Receiving purchases for NCC's Plant Sale on Wednesday evening, May 10 are, from left: Linda Fisher, Sandy Delay and Linda Osmundson. Proceeds from the sale were donated to Week of Compassion .



"Master Chef" Gregory Chambers reveals his pulled pork recipe in the NCC kitchen before Food Court on Wednesday evening, May 24. It was delicious!



Kathryn and I were sitting outside around our fire pit and enjoying a beautiful Iowa Spring Night a few weeks ago. We were reflecting on some of the funny stories and events that have taken place in our ministry together. Kathryn said, “We ought to start a Podcast called ‘*The Other Side of the Pulpit*’ and share these stories with others.” For some reason that got me thinking about newsletter articles. So, for this summer, my article will now be, “*The Other Side of the Pulpit*.” While a Podcast may be in our future, I thought it would be fun to use this print form to pull back the curtain on what goes into things that take place on *The Other Side of the Pulpit*.

The Sermon

The great American writer Mark Twain once said, “*No sinner is ever saved after the first twenty minutes of a sermon.*” In our time here at Noelridge, I have learned that after about twenty minutes of preaching half the congregation begins to close their eyes and nod their heads in sleep (I mean prayer). So what goes into preparing a Sermon for Sunday morning? As some of you have heard me say, Sunday comes around every seven days. I think it begins with an understanding of what the Sermon is, and what it is not. Thomas Long wrote my seminary textbook on preaching and in its pages he wrote this, “*Faithful preaching requires such gifts as sensitivity to human need, a discerning eye for the connections between faith and life, an ear attuned to hearing the voice of the Scripture, compassion, a growing personal faith, and the courage to tell the truth.*” If this seems to be an impossible standard to measure yourself to, I would agree.

The Sermon begins from the place of who you are. I recall one of my mentors in ministry saying to me, “You write the sermons you often need to hear yourself.” The Sermon begins in the depths of the minister’s soul at the intersection of heart and Spirit. One of the challenges therefore of preaching is finding the balance of heart and Spirit. One of the ways I keep this balance is to ask the questions: “If God was sitting next to me, how would this conversation unfold?” and “Am I being a faithful witness to His Living Word?” I firmly believe that the Bible is the Living Word of God, as God is a Living God, as we are Living beings. Thus, as we read and interpret the Bible, we are Living out God’s story in our own stories. This is where the Sermon begins to take shape. Through Prayer. Study. Reflection. Multiple Drafts. Words are sculpted and pulled together until they form a faithful and grace-filled message that meets the congregation and the minister where they are at.

I have often heard, “How do you come up with the words to say?” The answer is, I don’t. The Holy Spirit does. In Exodus we read this exchange between Moses and God, “*But Moses said to the Lord, ‘Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.’*” Exodus 4:10-12. To be tasked with the honor of preaching is to hear this charge and to have the courage and the faith to trust the whispers where God is leading. Many times when I rise to share the Sermon on Sunday Morning, the Words on the paper in front of me are not the Words that come from my mouth. And yet, somehow, a Good Word, a God Word is shared every Sunday.

So what goes into the Sermon? A whole lot of faith. A whole lot of prayer. A whole lot of God. Now you know. And as a friend once said to me, “Everyone has a sermon to share, because everyone has God in them.” So think about it, because you never know when you might have the honor of standing on *The Other Side of the Pulpit*.

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.



Church Happenings

Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

John H., friend of Scott and Cathy A.
Mallory W.H.
Jeff N., son of Elizabeth N.
Marvin and Mary, sister of Elizabeth N.
Dorothy, sister of Elizabeth N.
Darlene R., mother of Kim A.
Cherie W. and family, cousin of Lisa S.
Randy, Tina and family, brother of Lori D.
John and Sondra C.
Joe and Carmen F. and family
Sue A.
Theodore B. and his fiancée, Mwamba T.

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 June, the Elders "on call" are:

Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908
Pete Sherman (509) 230-2228

Write to a Church Camper

Jack C. will be attending camp on Holy Ground in Newton on July 6-8. It is fun to get letters and cards while at camp, so let's write to Jack and let him know that his church family is excited that he went to camp this summer and is learning more about God.

You can write him at:

5064 Lincoln Street, Newton, Iowa 50208



Kathryn and Gregory will be gone on vacation (and possibly fishing), May 29-June 10. If you have a pastoral need during this time, please reach out to one of NCC's Elders.



NFL

aka

Noelridge {faithful; fit; fun; funky} Ladies

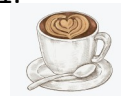
WHO: All women of NCC

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 June 20, we'll be at Mas Margaritas at 508 Boyson Road NE, Cedar Rapids.

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, June 27, at 9 am at Bistro at Blooms at 1440 Blairs Ferry Road in Marion. Come join us!

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



Pianist Randy Walton accompanies the women's choir in the performance of the special music "Beyond the Cross" during the NCC Sunday worship service on April 30. Front row, from left: Kim Anderson, JoAnne Pruitt, Jenny Harper, Trudy Stewart, Diana Ellingson. Back row: Sandy Klein, Kay Alexander, Elizabeth Blocksome, Karen Martin, Nora W., Paige W., Karen Howe.



Elder Moment

From Walt Hargraves



A "Cup of Tea" Relationship with Christ

A devotional I read recently was based on Paul's second letter to the Galatians and the verses that really resonated with me are Galatians 2:19-20. In these verses Paul uses key phrases like "with Christ" and "in Christ." Paul says he is crucified with Christ; Christ lives in him; and he lives by faith in the Son of God. These statements indicate how close he was to Jesus. He implies that the believer should be so close to Christ that Christ is part of the atmosphere that is breathed and inhaled.

I particularly liked the modern example that the author used to describe the relationship between Christ and Christians. He said that "being in Christ is like a cup of hot tea. Christ is infused into the Christian like a tea-bag placed in a cup of hot water. Whether the teabag is in the water or the water is in the teabag is impossible to tell. Eventually, the tea and the water are all the same as the tea flows into the water and the water goes through the teabag. Thus, Paul can say that Christ is in him or that he is in Christ. The image shows how he feels the love of Christ in him and how much it influences every thought and action."

As Christians today we deepen our relationship with Christ when we accept and practice this "cup of tea" type of connection in our day-to-day walk with our Lord. When we do, our every thought, action, and word centers on our Lord, and we are in Christ and Christ is in us. What a blessing to have this opportunity; what an opportunity to have an impact on our world. Like Paul, let's "live for God" and the next time you have a cup of tea take a moment to cherish your special relationship with Christ.



The NCC Men's Choir performs the special music "Sweet Hour of Prayer" during the Sunday Mother's Day worship service on May 14. At the piano is Randy Walton. From left: Pastor Gregory Chambers, Max L., Ray Howe, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss, Dave Martin. (Sue Alliss photo)



Church Happenings



Above: Diners attend the Potluck in the Fellowship Hall on April 30.

At Right: Attenders pass by the serving window during the Potluck.



Fifth Sunday Potluck



Pastor Gregory Chambers poses with his birthday cake in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday worship service on April 16. His actual birthday was two days away.



NCC youth served as deacons during the Sunday worship service on May 7. They are, from left: Max L., Nora W., Paige W., Nicole W. Leading communion at center is Pastor Gregory Chambers with Elders Pete Sherman (left) and Walt Hargraves assisting

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

The Newsletter Deadline is the Third Thursday of every month at noon. This month the deadline is June 15th. Please submit your articles via email to the Church Office.





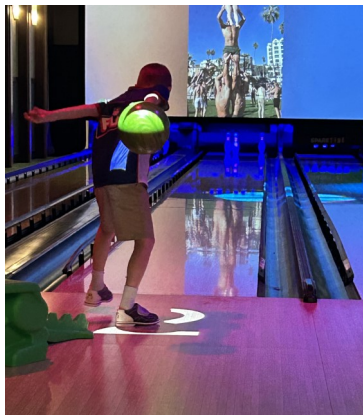
Saturday June 10th

8:30- Coffee is On

9:00- Food is Served

9:30- Clean up begins

Please join us as we share in a time of fellowship and faith together.



Youth Bowling Fun!

NCC Youth had a great time bowling on May 24 after Food Court. *(Kathryn Chambers' photos)*



Kathryn Chambers leads youngsters around the sanctuary as an exercise illustrating the story of the Road to Emmaus during the Sunday, April 16, 2023 NCC Children's Moment. Trailing the group is Cathy Appleget.



Attendees to Food Court sing "Happy Birthday to You" to Betty Hargraves (background, in yellow) on Wednesday evening, May 24.



Join us in Worship on Sunday, June 18th as we honor our Fathers and our Heavenly Father! All are welcome and encouraged to attend!





It is time for Vacation Bible School! We are thrilled to be once again hosting VBS here at Noelridge Christian Church. We'd love to spend the week with your children, grandchildren, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends! Registration forms can be picked up at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning or in the Church Office. There is no charge for Vacation Bible School and parents/ guardians do not have to stay the whole time. We only ask that you drop off and pick up your child nightly. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnne Pruitt or Gregory Chambers. We can't wait to *Twist and Turn* with you!

Dates: June 25th - June 29th
(Sunday-Thursday)

Times: 5:30 pm- 8:15 pm
(Dinner will be served nightly)

Ages: 4 years old- completion of 6th grade
(Please fill a registration form out for each child in attendance.)

Please return *Registration Form(s)* at the Welcome Desk or turn into the Church Office.



At Left: Carolyn Smith (center, background) leads a special VBS Children's Moment and helps youngsters playing the game of "Twister" on Sunday, May 7. Participating in a skit at the same time are, from left: Max, Paige, Nora, Cierra, Nicole and Aiden.

At Right: NCC youngsters perform a VBS promotional song and dance number, lead by Kathryn Chambers (right) during the Children's Moment on Sunday, May 7. From left: Stetson, Bridger, Eden and Magnolia. Seated at background left is Pastor Gregory Chambers.



Church Happenings



Save The Date:

Saturday, September 23rd

Arts for Africa Art and Craft Fair at NCC

Shop from local crafters and bid on silent auction items

Donate baked goods or a basket for the auction

All monies go to the Tumaini Schools in Tanzania

Asanta Sana!

(Thank you very much in Swahili)



Kellie Lala



A Big Thank You To My Church Family

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during and following my major surgery and hospital stay. Mom and I also have enjoyed the yummy food that has been delivered as I recover and regain my strength. A special thanks to Karen Howe for bringing communion both to the hospital and to my home. God is good and has been on this journey with me every step of the way (and also with Mom).

Thanks again!

Kellie Lala

Thank You



Cheryl Detlefsen shows a quilt and speaks to the NCC congregation on behalf of "The Sewing Room," the organization she is affiliated with, on Sunday, May 7. The Sewing Room started about 9 years ago and sews quilts for charitable organizations such as Catherine McAuley Center, Families Helping Families, Four Oaks, Waypoint, and Willis Dady Shelter. The sewing group has been meeting to sew quilts at NCC two days a month since February. Seated at background left is Pastor Gregory Chambers

Sharing about the African Mission and Adventure Trip

When: Sunday, June 25th, right after church

What: The NCC travelers that went on this once in a lifetime trip in February will share pictures, stories and more!

Why: To see and hear about the work that was done at the Tumaini Schools and the Lake Eyasi Medical Clinic during this African mission trip

Come join us!



Thank You to Our Choir Director - Randy!



NCC organist/pianist Randy Walton (above left) introduces the Chancel Choir's singing of "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone" (above right) during the Sunday worship service on May 21. Randy explained the song would be sung in honor of Cameron Sullenberger. (Sue Alliss photo)

At right: On Sunday, May 21, Randy Walton is honored with words of gratitude and a gift from Karen Howe on behalf of the Chancel Choir for his directorial service following the passing of Music Director Cameron Sullenberger. Choir members are, from left: Kim Anderson, Sandy Klein, Elizabeth Blocksome, Elijah Barker, Vannessia Klinsky, Pete Sherman, Karen Martin, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss, Trudy Stewart, Dave Martin, Ray Howe. At background right is drummer William Arnold.



The NCC Chancel Choir performs "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" during the Sunday worship service on May 7. Front row, from left: Karen Howe, Diana Ellingson, Nora, Karen Martin, Trudy Stewart. Back row: Max, Sandy Klein, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman (hidden), Kim Anderson, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss, Elizabeth Blocksome, Dave Martin, Ray Howe. (Katie Ginther pic)



Please join us in welcoming a familiar and friendly face--Rev. Liz Woodard on Sunday, June 4th. Liz will be filling the pulpit for us while Kathryn and Gregory are on Vacation.

You won't want to miss her uplifting and inspiring message!



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Diana Ellingson	June 7
Esther Hudson	June 11
JoAnn Sexton	June 12
Karen Martin	June 13
Lisa Stolba	June 15
JoAnne Gray	June 18
Kevin Spangelo	June 18
Gail Long	June 21
Kathy Hampton	June 27
Jeff Welty	June 28

Happy Anniversary!



Byron & Lisa Stolba	June 1
John & Susan Hill	June 5
Kyle & Katie Wehring	June 5
Stu & Lori Davidson	June 13
Ray & Karen Howe	June 16
Dan Buenz & Carol Hedberg	June 25
Adam & Nicole Carros	June 26

Welcome, Bristol Rose



The Breberg family is shown in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday worship service on May 21 during the diaper shower held in honor of Baby Bristol. From left: Bridger, Brett, Bristol and Shelby Breberg.



Sandy Klein is the recipient of "pass the baby around" during the Breberg diaper shower on Sunday, May 21. Also at the table in Fellowship Hall was Sue Maier (left), Eva Kisling and Liz Norman.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Jovce Rivinius, Lavender Lane
325 Collins Road SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 524031



Moment In NCC History



Karen Howe and Betty Hargraves deliver prepared food to Stu Davidson (left), one of the group of NCC volunteers who helped clean out the flood-ravaged Cedar Christian Church in downtown Cedar Rapids on June 28, 2008. At right, workers Gregg & Sue Alliss and Dan & Kathy Madden eat some of the food outside the church during a break. Volunteers also worked at Save-A-Lot grocery store and the Heath & Jennifer Curtis residence in Cedar Rapids.



June 2023						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<div></div> <div>Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School</div>				1	2 Craft Group 1 pm	3
4 Sunday Schedule	5	6 Collins - 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm	7	8	9 Craft Group 1 pm	10 Men’s Breakfast 9 am
11 Sunday Schedule	12 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	13 Collins - 9:30 am	14	15 Newsletter Deadline 12 pm	16 Craft Group 1 pm Sale Set-up 5:30 pm	17 Vocal Music Sale (Cameron’s) 9 am - 3 pm
18 Father’s Day Sunday Schedule	19 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	20 Collins - 9:30 am NFL - 4:30 pm at Mas Margaritas GloryBound 6:30 pm	21 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm	22 Sewing Group 9 am to 5 pm	23 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am to 5 pm	24
25 Sunday Schedule Sharing Time for Africa Adventure after the service	26	27 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am at Blooms	28	29	30 Craft Group 1 pm	
Sunday - Thursday: Vacation Bible School - 5:30 to 8:15 pm						



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

Return Service Requested



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Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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Rev. Gregory Chambers
gregory@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

