



# Noelridge News

May 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 5

## A Lovely Easter at NCC



Panoramic sanctuary view of NCC Easter Sunday service on April 9.



Left: The Praise Team (left) leads the congregation in the singing of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" during the Easter Sunday service.

Right: Pastor Gregory Chambers (right) shows a "golden egg" and asks youngsters what they thought was inside during the Easter Sunday Children's Moment. (It was empty like the tomb.) Kids are, from left: Ethan, Zoey, Eden, Stetson, Magnolia, Holly, Jack and Bridger.



Left: Guest director Amanda Freese (center) directs the Chancel Choir in the singing of "In Christ Alone" during the NCC Easter Sunday service on April 9. (Sue Alliss picture)

Right: Randy Walton sings the Special Music solo "They Could Not" during the NCC Easter Sunday service.



*More Easter photos on pages 7 & 8.*



## ***Signs Along the Way***



Why do we do, what we do? Why do we believe, what we believe? How are we being called to God's service as individuals? Where is God leading us, as a Church? I spend a good bit of time reflecting on these questions. On the surface these questions seem fairly simple. Yet, on a deeper level, they call upon us to reflect on the journey of faith we are on as both individuals and as a Church. Really, the heart of these questions is this,

***What does God want us to do with our lives?***

There are many different ways one can answer this question. God wants the best version of me. God wants me to grow in my relationship with Him. God wants me to pray more. All of these are great answers. But they're not the only answer. In Ephesians 2:10, the Apostle Paul writes, *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* In other words,

***God wants us ... to be us!***

Each of us has been created in the image of God, through the power of Jesus Christ. Each of us has a job to do here on this earth. As we enter into this season of Pentecost, in which the Holy Spirit ignites the fire in the heart of the Church, I invite you to wonder and reflect on who God wants us—as Noelridge Christian Church—to be!

Why are we here? What can we offer others, to help them deepen and grow their relationship with Jesus Christ? What are the good works that we can do, that God is calling us to do? How can we be us?

It's an exciting time for us as a Church! God is moving in our midst! The fire of revival is burning in our hearts! The Love of Christ is being shared! We feel the energy and enthusiasm for who we are and where God is leading us. The Spirit is working here at NCC!

This Pentecost, may we hear and trust the Spirit's Call upon our lives and the life of Noelridge Christian Church!

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





## Church Happenings

### Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Family of Virgil B., brother of Annabel M.  
Kyle and Chelsea K. and family  
John and Sandra Coughran  
Joe and Carmen F. and family  
Kellie L.  
Theresa S.  
Anita, R., mother of Megan H.  
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, our Elder "on call" this May is:

Theresa Smith (319) 213-2606



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 29, in Observance of Memorial Day.



Basket Bonanza event volunteers are shown outside the NCC library on Friday morning, March 31. From left: Sandy Delay, Trudy Stewart, Jenny Harper, Mary Klingler, Linda Fisher, Linda Osmundson, Sue Hill. Mugging in the library is Zoey! The event ran only until 2:00 pm on this day because of the threat of severe weather. Over \$4,000 was raised, with proceeds going to the Community Health Free Clinic.

### 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 May 16, we'll be at Napoli's Italian Restaurant at 500 Marion Blvd. Suite #100, 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, May 23, at 9 am at Kava House, 122 2nd Ave. SW in Swisher. Come join us!

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



You are invited to celebrate with us in worship on May 14th as we honor all the Mothers in our lives. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!





## Keeping Our Hearts Aligned with the Heart of God

I've been giving a lot of thought lately to the concept of trusting my heart or my head. There are many messages in society today to "follow your heart" no matter the circumstances. These messages come at us from marketing, movies, novels, slogans, blogs and memes (everywhere). Related bits of advice are "trust yourself" and "follow your instincts." Stated another way, "your heart will never lead you astray."

My personal struggle is that when I allow my heart to lead in decision making, I feel like I'm granting myself permission to ignore facts and logic, leading me to decisions not supported by biblical truth. So, full disclosure – I really struggle with bad eating habits and failure to exercise as much as I should. In my own way, I'm following my heart, because I don't want to discipline myself and follow God's truth about caring for the temple that is my body.

So, how do I get myself aligned with the heart of God in this matter – or any matter?

Here are the ways I plan to work on this:

First, pray daily about my need to align with God. Some verses I'll rely on:

**Proverbs 3:5–6** This passage gives an explicit command not to trust ourselves. And it gives the promise of guidance to those who choose to follow the Lord.

**Jeremiah 17:7** God has perfect knowledge of everything.

**1 John 3:20** A trait often called omniscience. God's knowledge is not limited in any way. God is aware of all events that have ever transpired, are currently occurring, and will ever happen.

**Isaiah 46:9–10** God's knowledge goes beyond mere events and extends to thoughts and intentions.

**John 2:25; Acts 1:24** It is not all this knowledge, however, that makes God a perfectly reliable source of guidance. God is also aware of every possibility, every eventuality, every imaginable outcome of any series of events.

**Matthew 11:21** That ability, combined with God's goodness, enables God to give the best possible direction for people to follow.

Seek God's will for my life.

Ask for support and help.

Offer support and help to others I know who share the same struggle.

We have an omniscient, benevolent Lord who promises to give us wisdom. We should gratefully take it!

**James 1:5** We have His inspired, inerrant Word written down for us.

**2 Timothy 3:16** Why would we turn our backs on God and His eternal promises in order to pursue the whimsical impulses of the heart?

At our January Leadership Summit, we proposed the idea of a new ministry at NCC – a Health and Wellbeing Ministry. Physical health or financial health are a couple of suggestions for special interest groups to support each other. (Some specific ideas: Exercise Group – Walking Group – Weight Loss Group – Financial Peace University, etc.) Emotional support groups are also options; however, we would need to be responsible and ensure they are led by qualified professionals.

Please offer your thoughts and ideas to Pastor Gregory, the office (Lynne/Eva/Karen), or me (or for that matter, any Elder).







# *Who's Who at NCC*

Since we are about half-way through the year and we are seeing a number of new faces, we thought it would be a good idea to let you know who is who at NCC. If you have any questions about different groups or activities please reach out to the program group coordinator.

### **Steering Board:**

Moderator- Kyle Wehring  
Vice- Moderator- Sue Maier  
Secretary- Theresa Smith  
Treasurer/ Financial Secretary- Sue Alliss  
Administrative Group Coordinator- Diana Ellingson  
Congregational Life Coordinators-  
Eva Kisling & Sandy Kline  
Spiritual Life Coordinator- JoAnne Pruitt  
Missions Group Coordinators-  
Linda Osmundson & Linda Fisher  
Physical Resources Coordinator- Bryon Stolba  
Trustee- Rod Blocksom  
Trustee- Stu Davidson  
Trustee- JD Smith

### **Elders:**

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

**Deacon Chair-** Adam Carros

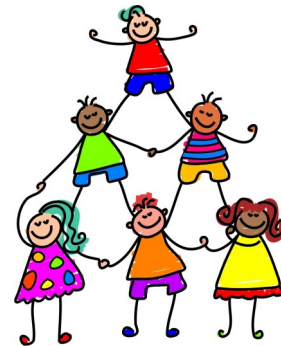
**Food Court Coordinator-** Amy Spangelo

### **Ministerial Advisory Team:**

Walt Hargraves  
Trudy Stewart  
Kim Anderson  
Ray Howe

### **Ministerial Relations Team:**

Kyle Wehring  
Lisa Stolba  
Stu Davidson  
Walt Hargraves



It's Barbeque Time! For our last Food Court of the season, Gregory and Crew will be bringing us a special southern supper. If you haven't heard yet, this BBQ is LEGENDARY (self-proclaimed of course!) Make plans to share in a time of mouth-watering, slow-smoked, fall off the bone-goodness, fresh off the pit! The Supper Bell rings at 5:30 on May 24<sup>th</sup>!





## Church Camp Time Again!

From Beginner and Grand Camp to Senior Adult Retreat, there is truly something for everyone on Holy Ground at the Christian Conference Center in Newton.

Camp is a special place where you grow in your faith and learn to live and love with Powerful Purpose.

Online registration is available on the Region's website: [www.newtonccc.org](http://www.newtonccc.org).

Early Bird deadline ends May 1st. Noelridge Christian Church pays 50% of the camper fees to attend camp. This is available for our church members.

If you have any questions, please see Kellie Lala or Pastor Gregory.



**Save the Date! Vacation Bible School is coming to NCC, June 25 - June 29. VBS will be in the evenings this year from 5:30 - 8:15 pm. Registration will begin soon!**

**Please join us in worship on May 7, to hear all about how:**

***Following Jesus Changes The Game!***



Cute as a button and sweet as can be!  
Join us for a diaper shower as we welcome:

*Bristol Rose Breberg*

Let's shower the family with Love!

*Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 11:00 AM following Worship in the Fellowship Hall.*

The family has requested Pampers size(s) 1, 2, 3 and Pampers Sensitive Wipes.

If you have any questions please contact Kathryn Chambers.



**Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**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 Skating Party

On May 24, it will be "All-Skate" time for NCC Youth. Praise Builders and GodSquad will enjoy an evening at SuperSkate, 5100 Northland Ave. NE in Cedar Rapids, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. For more info, contact JoAnne Pruitt.



## Plant Sale



NCC Mission Plant Sale will be Wed., May 10 to Sat., May 13, from 10:30 am to 6 pm. Spring bedding plants, hanging baskets and vegetable plants will be available for purchase.





## Holy Week at NCC

### Palm Sunday



Above: The Chancel Choir and NCC youth sing and wave palms on Palm Sunday, April 2. (photo by Gail Long)

Right, top: Randy plays the organ for the Palm Sunday Processional hymn, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna." (photo by Gail Long)

Right, bottom: Children enjoy "Palm Sundaes" at SonShine Time. (photo by Shelby Breberg)



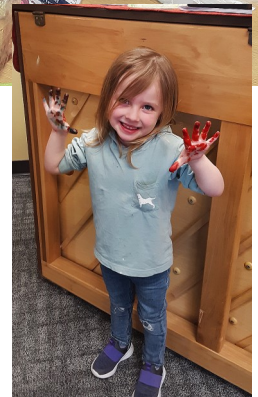
### Wednesday Preparations



Above left: NCC youth fill Easter eggs with candy on Wednesday evening, March 29. The eggs would be used for the upcoming Easter egg hunt. Clockwise, from left: Max, Elixys, Cierra, Nicole, Paige, Zoey.

Above right: Easter Eggs are colored on Wednesday evening, March 29. From left: Jack, Magnolia, Jane Groves, Eden, Kathryn Chambers

Right: Holly has fingers to "dye" for. (photos by JoAnne Pruitt)





## Maundy Thursday



Above left: Pastor Gregory Chambers delivers his Maundy Thursday meditation, "A Praying Messiah," on April 6.

Above right: Pastor Gregory Chambers (center), flanked by Elders Lisa Stolba and Theresa Smith, leads communion during the NCC Maundy Thursday service. Deacons are, from left: Sandy Delay, Cathy Appleget, Bob Hagist, JD Smith.

At right: The Chancel Choir performs "Behold the Lamb (The Communion Hymn)" during the NCC Maundy Thursday service. Front row, from left: JoAnne Pruitt, Elizabeth Blocksome, Randy Walton (piano), Diana Ellingson, Karen Howe, Trudy Stewart. Back row: Joe Wetrich, Max Lightfoot, Tom Ohrt, Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Ray Howe.

(photo by Sue Alliss)



## Good Friday



Left: "The Voices of Good Friday" voice performers are shown during the NCC Good Friday service on April 7. Top row, from left: Adam Carros as Nicodemus, Gregg Alliss as Pilate, Kathryn Chambers as the Voice of the Crowd. Bottom row: Elijah Barker as the Thief, Trudy Stewart as Mary, Stu Davidson as the Centurion.

Right: The Chancel Choir performs "Behold the Lamb," accompanied on piano by Randy Walton during the NCC Good Friday service on April 7.

(photos by Sue Alliss)





# Birthdays!



Join us in worship on Sunday, May 28 as we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church! You won't want to miss out as we celebrate together the outpouring of God's Spirit upon His Church! You are encouraged to wear festive attire and the color red!



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.



Above left: Two NCC ladies' birthdays were honored with cakes on Sunday, April 2. At left is Margery Alderman, and at right is Liz Norman (accompanied by her granddaughter Sophie).

At left: Carole Northway and Gail Long serve birthday cake in Fellowship Hall following the NCC Sunday worship service on April 2. Around the table at right are Tom McKee, Russ Kauffman and Kathy Hampton.

Above: Lori Davidson (center) stands with her mother and father for recognition of her father LaVerne's 91st birthday in NCC's Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, March 29.





## Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



### Happy Birthday!

Rod Blocksome	May 8
Elizabeth Blocksome	May 10
Amy Spangelo	May 10
Shirley King	May 18
Mallory Wills-Howe	May 19
Victoria Breyfogle	May 20
Diane Evens	May 21
Randy Rula	May 21
Jim McVeigh	May 23
Betty Hargraves	May 24
Tonya Simonson	May 24

### Happy Anniversary!

Ken & Sue Maier	May 7
Tom & Laura Montgomery	May 17
John & Kay Alexander	May 24
Chuck & Neisha Kitzman	May 28



### Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Dave & Ann Rhodes  
284 Crandall Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



### Thanks for the Photos!

Thank you, Gregg Alliss, for providing most of the photos in our newsletter.

## Welcome, New Members!



Brett and Shelby Breberg, along with their children, Bridger and baby Bristol, are welcomed as new NCC members by Pastor Gregory Chambers at the conclusion of the Easter Sunday service on April 9.



Mallory Wills-Howe is welcomed into NCC membership by Pastor Gregory on Sunday, April 23. Her husband, Justin Howe, is with her at left and joining the welcome at right are Karen and Ray Howe, Justin's parents.

## Moment In NCC History







Karen Martin (standing, right) conducts the Children's Moment to children, many of whom are accompanied by their mothers during the NCC Mother's Day service on Sunday, May 12, 2013. Seated at left foreground are Tammy Chambers, Carol Hedberg and Kim Lewis. Behind them are Summer Shanle and Katie Wehring. Martin asked the children if they knew their mother's favorite color and flower.





### May 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	<b>2</b> MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm	<b>3</b> Wednesday Schedule GodSquad— Food Court Clean-up	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Craft Group 1 pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Sunday Schedule VBS Meeting 11 am Directory Photo Day	<b>8</b> Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	<b>9</b> MOPS Leaders- 9-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am	<b>10</b> Wednesday Schedule  Plant Sale 10:30 am-6 pm	<b>11</b>  Plant Sale 10:30 am-6 pm	<b>12</b> Craft Group 1 pm  Plant Sale 10:30 am-6 pm	<b>13</b> Men's Breakfast 9 am  Plant Sale 9 am-2 pm
<b>14</b>  <b>Mother's Day</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> MOPS - 9:00-11:15 am Collins - 9:30 am NFL - 4:30 pm  GloryBound 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Wednesday Schedule	<b>18</b> Newsletter Deadline 12 pm  Card Ministry 1:30 pm	<b>19</b> Craft Group 1 pm	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Sunday Schedule Breberg Baby Shower 11 am	<b>22</b> Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	<b>23</b> Wake Up Ladies 9 am Collins - 9:30 am	<b>24</b> Wednesday Schedule Youth Skating Party	<b>25</b>  Sewing Group— 9 am—5 pm	<b>26</b> Craft Group 1 pm  Sewing Group— 9 am—5 pm	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>Pentecost</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>29</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>30</b> Collins - 9:30 am	<b>31</b> (Wednesday Schedule is on break for the Summer)	<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 		



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

**Return Service Requested**



# Noelridge News

May 2023  
Volume 67, Issue 5

## Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

Lynne Kerling  
office@noelridgechristian.org

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

