



Noelridge News

August 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 8

Show and Shine



At left: NCC volunteers are shown under the greeter's tent about a half-hour before the start of The Second Annual Car Show and Shine event on Saturday morning, July 1. Light rain was falling at the time. From left: Loren Kisling, Scott Appleget, Kathryn Chambers, Sue Maier, Gregory Chambers, Bryon Stolba.

Cars, Music, Cars, Food, Cars, Fun!



Above: A car owner sits under an umbrella in light rain on NCC's front grounds during the Car Show and Shine event. Standing with him is Marty Roland.



Above: NCC front grounds, shown during the Car Show and Shine event. From left, face painting tent, first aid tent, GloryBound performers, Bouncy House.

At right: GloryBound performs under NCC's canopy extension during the Car Show and Shine event.



The Other Side of the Pulpit

I was thinking the other day about what it means to live with perspective. I have often thought of perspective as the ability to set oneself apart from a situation and look at the bigger picture, or the holistic picture. As a body of Christ, how do we take a step back from our own faith journeys and look at the holistic picture of who God is calling us to be? I think it begins with living with perspective. How do we gain perspective? We experience it.

One of the best ways I know how to gain perspective is to be out in nature. As a child we would often take our summer vacations in the mountains of Colorado. My grandparents lived and did ministry in Denver, so it always made sense to stop at their home on our way up into the mountains. I recall as a child, my sisters and I would compete to see who “saw the mountains, first.” (Later in life I realized Dad always saw the mountains first because he was driving.) We would wait with bated breath as we climbed from the plains of Kansas into the plains of Colorado. Then about 70 miles from Denver it seemed you’d get your first glimpse of the mountains. The mountains would start as a speck on the horizon and rise up from the plains until they filled your entire view. But it wasn’t until the next day as you climbed on I-70 into the mountains, when you crest the foothills that the majesty of the mountains would open before your eyes. And you realize that you are in fact, but a speck on their slopes. This, I believe, teaches perspective.

The same could be said about the Church. Yes, the Church has been around some 2,000 years. But in the grand scheme of things even the Church is but a speck on the slopes of God’s majesty. Thus, how do we live with perspective? Putting ourselves in the right place, the right thought, the right order as it pertains to living our lives of faith? We remember whose we are, and why we are here.

“And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’” -Revelation 5:13

The first act of creation is to worship God. We are created by God, in the image of God, to serve God. First and foremost, this is our charge. It is also the sacred duty of the Church to be in worship and praise and adoration to God. Is this the perspective we are living with? That every action, every deed, every breath we breathe, is in itself an act of worship? If we don’t have this perspective, then perhaps we need to step outside and gain a little perspective and learn to worship God in all we do.

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.



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Tara, daughter of Vic B. and her grandson.
Cindy H.
Maralene J.
H. family, friends of Rachel G.
Dan B.
Anita R., mother of Megan H.
Joe and Carmen F. and family.
Theodore B. and his fiancée, Mwamba T.



Twenty-six NCC members enjoyed a day at the ball-park on July 23. (some are enjoying the shade higher in the stands) The Kernels won! (Photo by Gregory Chambers)

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2023 • LOUISVILLE

Please be in prayer for those attending the General Assembly of the Christian Church in Louisville. Rev. Chambers will be in attendance along with representatives from the Upper-Midwest Region and delegates from across the life of the Christian Church.



NFL

aka

Noelridge {fearless} 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 August 15, we'll be at Irish Democrat, 3207 1st Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids.

RSVP: Please make reservations by texting Kay Mineck-at (319) 360-0828.



Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, August 22, at 9 am at Matthew 25, 201 3rd Ave. SW in Cedar Rapids. Come join us!

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



3- Dozen Eggs

2- Pounds of Bacon

4- Pounds of Sausage

2- Dozen Cinnamon Rolls

36- Cups of Coffee

12- Glasses of Orange Juice

Hungry yet?

Join us on Saturday, August 12th for Men's Breakfast. Breakfast is served at 9, Coffee is on at 8:30. See you there!





I thought I'd talk about **Patriotism** since we just celebrated our country's 247th Independence Day. Our family has a **4th of July** tradition of celebrating with family and friends during the day and then we go downtown at night across the river from my Dad's old workplace, Quaker Oats, and watch the fireworks. I often wonder what my place was in serving our United States Air Force. Then this past week I just watched a great movie about a Conscientious objector to WWI, "Sergeant York." A true story about one of the most decorated United States Army soldiers of World War I. Like Sgt York, I too am against taking someone's life, but understanding as he did, protecting his friends and putting down a few of those that were doing so much evil to other humans, was really saving many more lives. We have seen many times over history where **God** has put down the bad to save more of the good.

There are degrees of **patriotism**. At a minimum, the word denotes **love**, devotion, and a commitment to protect one's country. Surely this is appropriate for all citizens. However, displaying a flag in a worship service implies that there is something inherently Christian about patriotism. Many Christians see **God's** goals and the country's goals as one and the same. Therefore, it is not just a civic duty to love and support America, it is also a Christian duty.

People who hold this view take seriously Paul's teaching on the Christian's relationship to civil government in Romans 13. "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities," Paul writes, "for there is no authority except that which **God** has established." Any rebellion or dissent against the government is "rebellious against what **God** has instituted." The relationship between rulers and citizens seems clear in Romans. The ruler is "**God's** servant for your good." Thus, to be unpatriotic is to oppose **God**.

These positions make their case from Scripture, the **Bible** does not answer all of our questions about the appropriate relationship between Christian faith and **patriotism**. On the one hand, the Scriptures are clear that we are to honor those in authority in our country (Rom. 13). But this doesn't have as much to do with politics as with the general principle that Christians are to show honor and respect to those in positions of authority. "Give to everyone what you owe them," Paul explains. "If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Rom. 13:7). This is a common theme in the New Testament (Matt. 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17).

It is also appropriate—and Christian—to want the best for your country, to want to see it prosper. "Pray to the **LORD** for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper" (Jer. 29:7). In other words, it is the duty of the people of **God** to seek stability, peace, and prosperity wherever we go. This includes supporting the nation in which we live. But we must also remember that "**our citizenship is in heaven**" (Phil. 3:20). Sometimes this will result in conflict with the governing authorities.

Those of us who live in America should certainly be grateful because gratitude is an important Christian quality. We do well to show our thankfulness to **God** for the opportunity to live in a free and prosperous nation. But we have to be careful not to give full and unqualified allegiance to anyone but **Jesus Christ**. The Jewish officials responsible for the arrest and crucifixion of **Jesus** blasphemed when they claimed they had no king but Caesar (John 19:15). Indeed they had—**Jesus** was supposed to be their king! We must be careful not to make the same mistake.

We must also be Christian in our engagement with and conversation about our leaders. We need not agree with them. But it is clearly unchristian to slander them, even if we do so—perhaps especially if we do so—in the name of **patriotism**. We must honor them in our language, and we must commit to pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-2). We pray for wisdom, insight, and courage as they guide the nation "for **our** good." And we pray that America, under their leadership, will prosper, "because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

God Bless America!!

Peter G. Sherman, Major, USAF, retired



Death and Resurrection of the American Chestnut Tree

By Gregg Alliss

More than 30 new trees from the past year or so have been planted on the grounds at NCC. Out of this bunch, the tree I am most hopeful for is the blight-resistant American Chestnut I acquired from Ty Ty Nursery in Georgia and planted on March 15 of this year on the west grounds of our church.

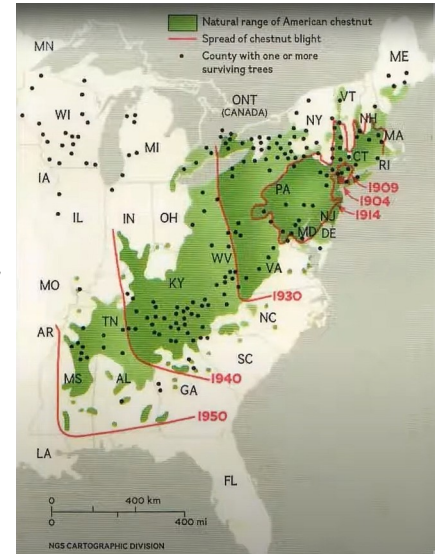
Until early in the twentieth century, the American Chestnut tree (*Castanea dentata*) was the most prolific hardwood in the eastern third of the United States. Some three to four billion trees, about one third of the entire number of all indigenous hardwoods, grew in that region. A whimsical adage of the time stated “a squirrel could travel from Georgia all the way to Maine without ever having touched the ground.” Mature chestnut trees would often reach in excess of 100 feet in height and attain a trunk diameter of 5 feet or more, and grew 2-4 feet each year. The tree was prized for its rot-resistant wood and for the sweet tasting, protein-rich nuts that would litter the ground each autumn. Black bear, deer, wild turkeys, grouse, squirrels and other animals would feast on the nuts. Farmers fed their hogs nuts to fatten them up. The line “chestnuts roasting on an open fire” from the Christmas Song alludes to the chestnut’s valued fruit.

In 1904, the first signs of a deadly blight fungus (*Cryphonectria parasitica*) was encountered in the Bronx, New York, transported to the United States from an imported Asian chestnut species that had evolved an immunity for the disease over the millennia. The blight, spread by wind, birds and insects, creates a large open canker wound on the host’s trunk, which eventually girdles the tree and cuts off its nutrition supply, killing it above the canker line. By 1950, blight had reached the states of Mississippi and Alabama in its southern range, and with it the deaths of almost all remaining mature American Chestnut trees. The aftermath was arguably the worst ecological disaster in our history. An entire ecosystem had been wiped out in less than a century. Roots from dead trees still send up living shoots from the ground, but these eventually die off, too, from the fungus.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that a few decades ago scientists and organizations such as The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) began working on ways to combat the blight and bring back to life the once iconic tree. Research in breeding with wheat genomes and backcrossing trees with the Asian chestnut’s resistant gene have been underway for some time now, to the point where resistant American Chestnut trees can be purchased commercially.

Which brings us back to NCC’s planted American Chestnut tree. It holds resistance to the blight. Does that mean it is immune? Absolutely not. I view its planting and subsequent growth as kind of a research project, and it will require constant scrutiny and possible intervention care as it matures. On the positive side, I’m excited to think this tree could be a living example of the future restoration of the species...right here in our own backyard.

-Gregg Alliss





Backyard Back to School BBQ at the Chambers

All children, youth and their families are invited to join the Chambers at 5:45 PM for a Back to School BBQ on

August 30th at their home.
(1535 25th St., Marion)

You won't want to miss out on the fun and the smells of this great fellowship opportunity!



Board Members and Elders are requested to attend a Stewardship and Nominating meeting after Worship on Sunday, August 13th with Rev. Josh Patty, Upper-Midwest Regional Minister. Lunch will be provided.



Save the Date

11th annual Arts for Africa arts and craft fair Saturday, September 23rd from 10a-4p



- *Bid at the silent auction. Over 100 items!
- *Donate a fun gift basket for the auction
- *Provide baked goods for the bake sale
- *Start your Christmas shopping early and buy from local vendors
- *Pray for the success of this annual event

All proceeds to benefit the Tumaini Schools in Tanzania!

Questions? Please see Kellie Lala or Karen Howe

A poster for the 'Arts for Africa Arts and Craft Fair'. The top section features the title 'ARTS FOR AFRICA' in large, bold, black letters, with 'Arts and Craft Fair' in a smaller, elegant font below it. The background of the top section is a zebra print. Below the title, there is a small illustration of a giraffe, an elephant, and two people in traditional African attire. The middle section contains the event details: '10:00 am-3:00 pm, Saturday, September 23, 2023', 'Held at Noelridge Christian Church, 7111 C Ave. NE in Cedar Rapids (just north of Boyson Road)', and 'Shop from local artists and crafters, silent auction and more! Event held rain or shine.' The bottom section features four small photographs: a group of people in traditional African clothing, a man and a woman smiling, a group of children in blue uniforms holding signs, and a group of people in blue uniforms standing in front of a building. At the very bottom, the text 'PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TUMAINI SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA' is written in bold, black capital letters.





Sharing the fun after a week of “Twists and Turns” at NCC Vacation Bible School

VBS participants perform a musical number from the previous week and engage the congregation in its singing during the NCC Sunday worship service on July 2.



All children, youth, teachers, and those who work in our schools are invited to bring your backpack to worship on Sunday, August 27th.

During the Worship Service, you will be invited to come forward and receive a special blessing as you begin this new school year!



PARENT MEETING



Parents, please join us following worship on August 27th in the Sanctuary for a short meeting regarding plans for Children and Youth activities during the Fall at NCC.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Donna Lala	August 3
Radka Sherman	August 5
Sue Maier	August 6
Jerome Sherman	August 6
Holly Carros	August 9
Kelly Himes	August 10
Roger Welty	August 12
Tom Ohrt	August 15
Lori Davidson	August 16
Linda Osmundson	August 20
Shelby Breberg	August 26
Bob Himes	August 29
Pat Courtney	August 30

Happy Anniversary!

David & Jennifer Olsen	August 3
Jim & Robin McVeigh	August 5
Brett & Shelby Breberg	August 15
John & Charlene Wilson	August 15
Bob & Kelly Himes	August 20
David & Karen Martin	August 21
Burton & Marilyn Butler	August 25



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 August, the Elders "on call" are:

Kellie Lala (319) 721-1820

Karen Howe (319) 573-7630

Thanks for the Photos!

Thank you, Gregg Alliss, for providing the wonderful photos for our newsletter.

August Sermon Series - Join Us!



Surprise Birthday Card Shower

Donna Lala turns 89 on August 3rd! Let's shower her with birthday greetings.

Cards can be sent to 3821 Skylark Lane S.E., Cedar Rapids, IA, 52403.



Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Betty Selken
801 Winterberry Place NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Moment In NCC History



An unidentified youngster winds up to throw a softball at the target of NCC's dump tank on Sunday, August 27, 2006. Seated in the dump tank is Brian Bast. Working the water bucket at top is Dave Hoagland. The activity was part of the All Church Picnic. The dump tank was designed and constructed by Russ Kauffman, Rod Blocksome and Harold Durscher.



Calendar

Regular Sunday Schedule

8:30 - Adult Sunday School

9:15 am - Fellowship

9:45 am - Worship & Story Time

10:45 am - Adult Sunday School

August 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 Collins - 9:30 am	2	3	4 Craft Group 1 pm	5
6 Sunday Schedule	7 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	8 Collins - 9:30 am	9	10	11 Craft Group 1 pm	12 Men's Breakfast 9 am
13 Sunday Schedule Board & Elders mtg. with Josh Patty - 11 am	14 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	15 Collins - 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm	16	17 Newsletter Deadline 12 pm	18 Craft Group 1 pm	19
20 Sunday Schedule	21	22 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	23	24 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	25 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	26
27 Backpack Blessing Sunday Parent mtg - 11 am Arts for Africa mtg - 11 am	28 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	29 Collins - 9:30 am	30 Back-to-School BBQ at Chambers' 6 pm Chancel Choir Practice 6:45 pm	31		



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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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

TITLE: Noelridge News
DATE OF ISSUE: July 27, 2023
STATEMENT OF FREQUENCY: Monthly
ISSUE AND NUMBER: Volume 67, Issue 8
NAME: Noelridge Christian Church
ADDRESS: 7111 C Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1388
EDITOR: Karen Howe

A Disciples of Christ Church

