



Noelridge News

July 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 7

VBS Twists & Turns



Vacation Bible School provided suppers, music, crafts, games, Bible stories, lots of fun, laughter, cheering and many Twists and Turns! Thirty children and 25 adults participated in the evening VBS from June 25 to June 29.



Kathryn Chambers' photo below



See more VBS photos on page 4



A Note from Rev. Chambers

The Other Side of the Pulpit

One of the most fascinating parts of my week is shaking hands at the backdoor of the sanctuary following Sunday morning worship. Often times, the handshaking is fairly routine. I say, “Hello” or “How’s it going?” and you respond with “Good Morning” or “Thanks for the message this morning.” Every once in a while, I’ll receive a response I wasn’t expecting. I remember early in the first year of my ministry, I preached a long forty-minute sermon. I think for many folks who were in the pews that day each minute felt like a year in the wilderness. In the greeting line that day I received the normal pleasantries, until one of the trustees of the congregation came up to me. He said, “When the Rangers are playing, you don’t have to say it all.” The lesson has stuck with me, you don’t have to say it all and I try not to. But this lesson does lead to a question that I get quite often; “How do we becoming more discerning of God’s Spirit in our lives?”

Discernment

At a base level, discernment is the process by which one becomes more aware or seeks to find a greater depth or degree of meaning and wisdom that applies to one’s life. For Christians, discernment is a gift given and activated by the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-11*) I recall as a child, the Tootsie Pops commercials, where a young boy would seek out the wisdom of a wise old owl and ask, “Mr. Owl, how many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?” Seeking to answer the questions of life begins in the same place as the young boy. Discernment begins by choosing to seek out the heart of wisdom. Proverbs 2:6 says this, “*For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*” The first step in Discernment must therefore be to seek out God. This could happen through prayer, through Bible Study, through conversation with an elder and friend. The second step in Discernment is to ask the question. Proverbs 2:10 continues on, “*for wisdom will come into your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.*” Only when you ask the question of God, will the answer be revealed. Granted, it won’t be in your timing but rather in God’s timing. It may not be the answer you are seeking, but it will be the one God intends for your life. We live in a world of instant answers and instant gratification. The process of Discernment is neither of these things, rather it is a continuous and ongoing process of deepening our faith, asking faithful questions, and listening to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul sums up discernment in Romans 12:2, “*Do not be conformed by this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God- what is good and acceptable and perfect.*”

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:
Family of Barbara A., mother of Scott A.
Family of Joyce R., mother of Cindy H.
Brian B., classmate of Theresa S.
Family of Mike M., friend of Leland and Linda O.
and JD and Theresa S.
Gary, brother-in-law of Sharon W.
Anita, friend of Sharon W.
April P., friend of the Scott and Cathy A. family
Trudy S.
Stu and Lori D. and family
Jeff N., son of Elizabeth N.
Marvin and Mary, sister of Elizabeth N.
Dorothy, sister of Elizabeth N.
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 July, the Elders “on call” are:

Diana Ellingson (319) 721-3600
Walt Hargraves (319) 929-9967



Congrats to Nicole Agee Carros for her promotion at Gray Television. Nicole will be leaving her anchor job on KCRG to be a Talent Acquisitions Specialist with their parent company, Gray Television. She is excited about her new role and helping to mentor new talent. She will still be based out of Cedar Rapids, too!



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 July 18, we'll be at Czech Town Station, 69 16th Ave. SW in 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, July 25, at 9 am at Stillwater Coffee Company, 1275 N Center Point Road in Hiawatha. Come join us!

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



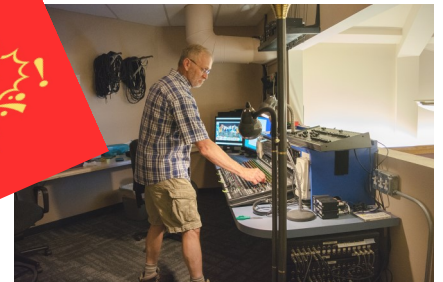
Pancakes, Sausage, Coffee, Fellowship, and Friends! If these words sound like a good time to you, then join us on Saturday, July 8th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Coffee is on at 8:30 AM!



More VBS Fun

Thank you to all who helped make VBS a fun-filled, meaningful learning experience!





Freedom Picnic

Please join us after worship for a special time of celebration as we give thanks for the Freedom we are blessed with in this nation. Hotdogs, Chips, and Watermelon will be served. You won't want to miss this time of Fellowship!



Memorial Day display in front of Noelridge Christian Church on Sunday morning, May 28.



Bring your favorite summer side dish and join us for our 5th Sunday Potluck following worship on July 30th. Congregational Life will provide the Main Dish and the Lemonade.

We hope you will join us!



2nd Annual Car Show & Shine Noelridge Christian Church 7111 C Avenue NE, CR

**Saturday, July 1, 2023 from 11am to 3pm
FREE Admission FREEDOM FESTIVAL Event.**

**On display will be Classic Cars, Vintage Cars & Tractors, Motorcycles.
Enjoy Live MUSIC, Lunch on site, Lady Bug Concessions along with
Inflatable Bouncy House and Face Painting for kids.**



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



Questions? Please see Kellie Lala or Karen Howe



African Fundraiser Garage Sale

Saturday, July 29th
8am-4pm

Home of Donna Lala
3821 Skylark Lane SE

100% of the funds go to the Tumaini Schools in Tanzania



Members of the African Mission and Adventure Trip who traveled to Tanzania in February pose following a slide show presentation of the trip held in the sanctuary on Sunday, June 25. From left: Cathy Herwehe, Bev Grimes, Ken Maier, Sue Maier, Kellie Lala, Bryon Stolba, Lisa Stolba, JD Smith, Theresa Smith



New Walking Trail



"Bird's eye" view of the walking trail on Friday, June 23, while work was still being done on it. The trail starts from the parking lot (left), travels to west to the end of the grounds (left center), then north (right) to 74th Street. Thank you to our Property Group and all of those who worked on the new trail.

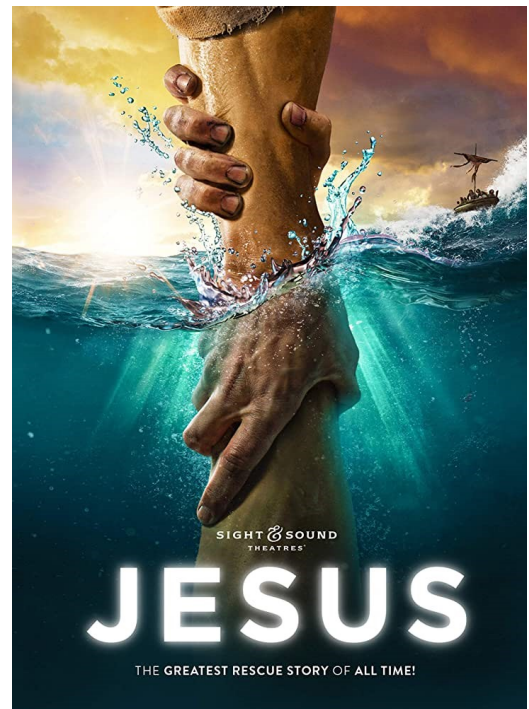


Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

All children (youngsters and young of heart) and families are invited to join us for a day at the Ballpark on Sunday, July 23. The ballgame begins at 1:05 PM at Veterans Memorial Stadium.

Tickets to the game are \$10 dollars. If you would like to attend, please sign up in the Church Office or see Gregory.

We hope to see you at the Ballpark!



Come one! Come all! Join us for a special movie night for all ages!

We will be showing Sight and Sound Theatres JESUS in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, July 12th, at 6:00 pm. Snacks will be provided!



Father's Day Recognition



Above left: Children pass out small flashlights to fathers in the NCC congregation during the Father's Day Sunday service on June 18. The flashlight gift concept was connected to scripture from Matthew 5:16 (inset, upper left). Above right: Holly C. (center) passes out small flashlight gifts for fathers, assisted by Kellie Lala, during the NCC Father's Day service.

New Dishwasher



NCC's new dishwasher lies boxed and ready for installation in the north corridor on Wednesday evening, May 24 (left). At right, the dishwasher is shown immediately following its installation on Friday, June 2. The dishwasher, which was purchased from Rapids Wholesale Equipment in Marion, runs 109 seconds per cycle and can handle 24 racks of dishes per hour.



The Reverend Liz Woodward reads from Matthew 28 before her sermon message "A Story To Tell" during the NCC Sunday worship service on June 4. Woodward was a guest pastor this day as Gregory and Kathryn Chambers were on vacation.





Above: James Pruitt performs special music "O Come to the Altar" during the NCC Sunday worship service on May 28. At background right is Pastor Gregory Chambers.

At right: NCC sanctuary Pentecost Sunday display shown in the sanctuary on May 28.



Coming This Fall **Financial Peace University**

Watch for times and dates for classes at NCC in September through November!



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Eden Groves	July 3
Stetson Groves	July 3
Bonnie Peal	July 3
Gary Hopper	July 4
Susan Hoagland	July 8
JD Smith	July 11
Nicole Carros	July 19
Kay Duball	July 21
Carol Northway	July 22
Charlene Wilson	July 27
Margaret Chambers	July 28



JoAnne Gray (right) poses behind the birthday cake presented to her after the NCC Sunday worship service on June 25. The celebration was for JoAnne's 90th birthday. Standing with her is Annabelle Mollenhauer.

Thanks for the Photos!

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

Happy Anniversary!



Jeff & Barbara Welty	July 4
Gregg & Sue Alliss	July 9
Justin & Mallory Howe	July 9
John & Bonnie Peal	July 20
Dave & Cindy Huovinen	July 26
Randy & Carole Northway	July 31

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Ruth Rothrock
415 Old Marion Road NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-2110I





Moment In NCC History



A farewell gathering was held for the LeVasseur family in NCC's Fellowship Hall on July 19, 2009, following the Sunday worship service. This was their last day at the church before they moved to Ames, Iowa. At left, presenter Donna Lala stands with Toni and Gene LeVasseur as they open gifts given to them by the church. At right, a table including the LeVasseurs is shown during the prepared dinner. Gene LeVasseur was offered the job as NCC's music director on July 19, 1998, and started in that capacity on August 9, 1998.



July 2023						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & Story Time 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School				
2 VBS Sunday Sunday Schedule Freedom Picnic	3 Office closed	4  Independence Day Office closed	5	6	7 Craft Group 1 pm	8 Men's Breakfast 9 am
9 Sunday Schedule	10 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	11 Collins - 9:30 am	12 Family Movie Night 6 pm	13 Remembering Joyce Rivinius - Visitation 1 pm Funeral 2 pm Reception	14 Craft Group 1 pm	15
16 Sunday Schedule	17	18 Collins - 9:30 am NFL - 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 12 pm Card Ministry 1:30 pm	21 Craft Group 1 pm	22
23 Sunday Schedule Kernels Game 1:05 pm	24 Missions 5:30 Cong. Life mtg. 6:30 pm	25 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	26	27 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	28 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	29
30 Sunday Schedule Potluck	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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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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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: June 29, 2023
STATEMENT OF FREQUENCY: Monthly
ISSUE AND NUMBER: Volume 67, Issue 7
NAME: Noelridge Christian Church
ADDRESS: 7111 C Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1388
EDITOR: Karen Howe

A Disciples of Christ Church

