



Noelridge News

September 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 9

A Summer of Growth; A Fall of Harvest



Attendees of the Special Steering Board and Elders Meeting following the NCC Sunday worship service enjoy lunch before the meeting August 13. Our Upper Midwest Regional Minister, Joshua Patty, facilitated the meeting, provided information and took questions concerning our church's future. Outer table, clockwise from left: Diana Ellingson, Ed Van Slyke, Elizabeth Blocksome, Rod Blocksome, Sue Alliss, Theresa Smith, Linda Osmundson, Linda Fisher, Ken Maier, Sue Maier, Reverend Joshua Patty, Kellie Lala, Lisa Stolba, Bryon Stolba, Pete Sherman, Trudy Stewart, Kim Anderson, Eva Kisling, Sandy Klein, Lori Davidson, Walt Hargraves. Inner table from left: Reverend Gregory Chambers, Kyle Wehring, Kathryn Chambers, JoAnne Pruitt, Ray Howe, Karen Howe, Stu Davidson.



NCC Gardeners weeded and watered so that we could all enjoy the delicious fruits (and vegetables) of their labor. Shown above is the garden on the morning of July 28. Thank you to our NCC Gardeners!



Produce from the NCC garden is shown just outside the library on Sunday morning, July 30.

See new and resuming Fall activities on pages 5 - 8!



Signs Along the Way



Several months ago, I came across an unfortunate sight. I discovered a rocking chair that had been abandoned and earmarked for the trash heap. Many of you may not be aware of this, but I have a certain affinity for woodworking and craftsmanship. Kathryn and I over the course of our marriage have built numerous pieces of furniture that adorn our home. We enjoy the process of envisioning what can be. Where others may see an old worn-out broken chair, we see the possibility of new life and a new creation.

When I discovered this rocking chair, I knew that it still had life and a story to tell. Yes, I saw the dents, the scratches, the chips in the wood, all evidence of use and a lifetime of love. Yes, I even saw the broken parts. The parts where the wood was splintered and would need to be repaired. What others might see as a waste of time; I saw as an opportunity to bring new life to this rocking chair's story.

So, I got to work. First disassembling the rocking chair. Parts of it came apart easily, other parts took some motivation and some strong whacks of the mallet. A few pieces even broke as they were disassembled. Upon being broken down to the essences of the pieces, the hard work began. Each piece, that had been handspun countless years ago needed to be stripped and sanded down to the grain of the wood. Once the pieces and parts were raw like my hands, it was time to breathe new life into this creation. It wasn't easy, it wasn't perfect, but the results were worth the journey.

The story of this rocking chair is in many ways a metaphor for our life. We begin life fresh and new ready to face any challenge and conquer the world. Fairly quickly along the way we begin to pick up scratches, dents, chips, and broken pieces. Maybe we even come to the point where we feel like we belong on the trash heap. But here is the difference between us and the rocking chair. God is always watching out for you.

We read these words in Isaiah 43:19, *"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

When we are at our lowest point, God is present to us. Perhaps the journey to this point is to allow us to be mendable and ready for the hands of the master carpenter, to call us into new being and new creation. Don't give up hope. Don't give up on God. Don't give up on yourself. For it may just be that you are going through a process and a journey of restoration that will bring you into new life. We don't know where life's journey will lead us. We do know, we can find rest in the promises of God.

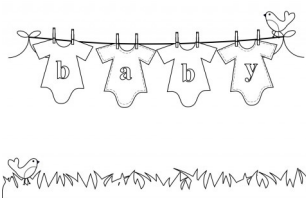
As is recorded in Jeremiah 31:3 *"Thus has said the Lord God from on high: I have loved you with an everlasting love; with loving kindness I have drawn and knit you unto me."*

These are the promises of our faith. These are the promises of our God.

The old rocking chair has found new life and a new purpose too. As after the first of the coming year, that rocking chair will hold Kathryn or myself as we hold God's second greatest gift to us in our arms, as we welcome our second child into this world. Behold, God is doing something new. God is showing us, His Everlasting Love!

Grace and Peace,

Gregory (AKA- Dad)



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:

Anita, friend of Sharon W.

Jen E., mother of Elie E.

The family of Rodd E., nephew of Diane E.

Stephanie W., friend of Amy S.

The family of Brian B., friend of Theresa S.

The family of Rusty R., brother of Martin R.

Larry K.

Joe and Carmen F. and family.

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 September, the Elders “on call” are:

Lori Davidson (319) 551-0575

Sue Maier (319) 651-3520



Thanks for the Photos!

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



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 September 19, we'll be at Napoli's at 500 Marion Blvd. in Marion. RSVP: Please make reservations by contacting Esther Hudson, 319-393-4839.



Wake Up Ladies!

Our “Wake Up Ladies” morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, September 25, at 9 am at Einstein Bros. Bagels at 2870 Edgewood Rd. SW in Cedar Rapids. Come join us!

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



**What's on the Menu? We're not sure!
But we know you'll want to join us for
fellowship on Saturday, September 9th
at 9:00 AM. Coffee is ready at
8:30 AM.**





“Let’s go on a walk, God!”

Jeremiah 29:12 “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Where did the summer go? Yikes! It’s already September!

As I lament the end of summer, I admit those toasty temperatures made my frequent neighborhood walks a little less enjoyable, coming back to the house profusely glistening after a 2–3-mile jaunt! My neighbors and I often walk together, holding us accountable for showing up and making that ‘exercise for our health’ time pass faster. As we chatter away with the latest happenings, our Christian beliefs and values can be heard as we ‘attempt’ to solve the world’s problems! With respect for and honesty with one another, we learn from each other and are trusting God will lead us in the right direction!

When I walk by myself, I usually have a personal chat with God. These conversations begin with, “Hi God, how are you today?” I acknowledge God has a difficult task of caring for all the needs and problems we have created. I give thanks for the beauty of the day and blessings I’ve received. Then I start explaining things going on in my life. With that comes my admission of sins and prayers for guidance. I do realize, God already knows what I’m thinking and doing, but in my desire to have a personal relationship with God, I feel I need to talk and/or have an ‘in my head’ conversation. I’m reminded in Jeremiah 29:12, “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Like you, I pray to God for a myriad of things including the world, our church, prayers for family and friends. In contrast to our world of instantaneous responses (or my neighbors’ advice), we’ve all learned God provides responses at the right time. This teaches me to wait, to listen and to be patient. These walks are important not only for my physical health, but also my spiritual well-being.



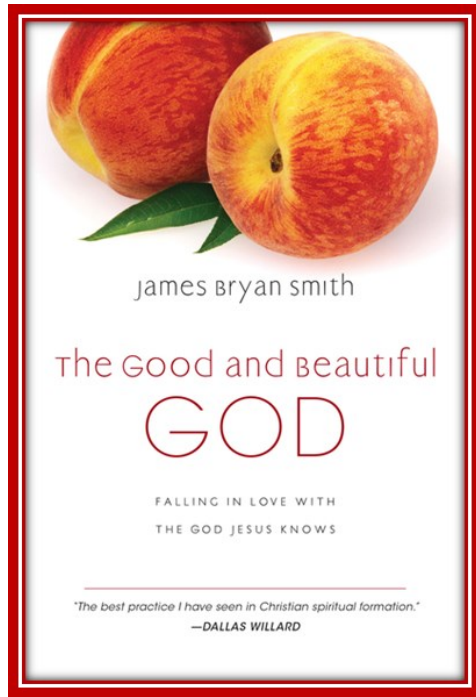
Pizza with the Pastor



Pastor Gregory would like to extend an invitation to all “New” Faces at NCC to join him for lunch on Sunday, September 10th following worship. “New” faces are those who have joined the Church in the last three years. Those who are interested in learning more about the Church. And those who are interested in becoming a member of the NCC Church Family. This will be a time for fellowship, learning about the History of NCC, and learning about who we are as Disciples of Christ, plus there will be plenty of PIZZA!! Please RVSP to the Church Office or Pastor Gregory.

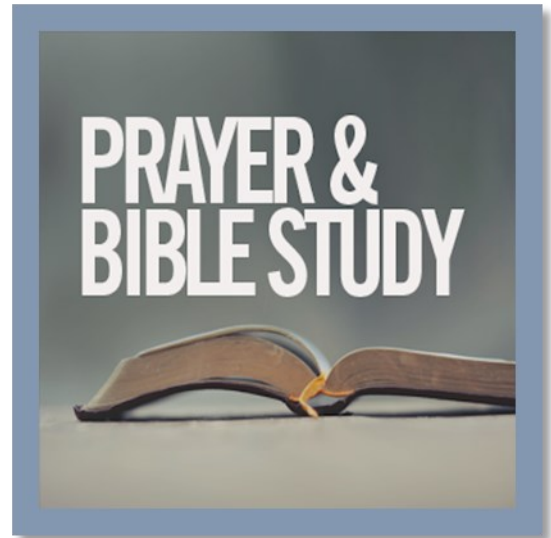


This Fall Brings New Opportunities



Fall Book Study

How are you doing Spiritually? Do you believe that God is angry with you, punishing you for everything thing you've done wrong? Do you think God wants you to try harder? Would you like to deepen your faith and your relationship with the God that Jesus knows? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then join us for our Fall Book Study on *The Good and Beautiful God*. Our Fall Book Study begins on September 6th from 6:05- 6:40 PM in the Blue Room. This nine-week study will meet every Wednesday night through November 1. Books may be purchased on Amazon.com, please search *The Good and Beautiful God*. If you need assistance purchasing or ordering a book, please let the Church office know.



Noon Bible Study and Prayer

Join us for a time of Fellowship, Bible Study, and Prayer for our Church on Tuesdays at 12:00 PM beginning September 5th. We will share in a time of reading scripture together and praying over the needs and concerns of our Church. For more information, please contact the Church Office.



Pastor Gregory Chambers explains the first of a month-and-a-half sermon message series "Back to the Basics" before his sermon "God Created" on Sunday, August 6.



Choir Season Begins

The Chancel Choir will soon prepare for a Fall filled with music at NCC. They rehearse weekly, beginning Wednesday, September 6, at 6:45 pm. If you enjoy singing, please come and give choir a try!



Kay Alexander performs her special music solo "Father's Eyes" during the NCC Sunday worship service on July 30.



Randy Walton performs "For the Glory of the Lord," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 6.



Pianist Randy Walton and the Praise Team perform "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 13. Praise Team members are, from left: Elizabeth Blocksome, Karen Howe and Karen Martin.



Randy Walton and Trudy Stewart perform "Wonderful, Merciful, Savior," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 13.



Programs Resuming This Fall



Calling all Praisebuilders and God Squad

Please join us on September 6th as we kick off our Fall Season. Praisebuilders and God Squad meet from 6:00 PM- 6:45 PM.

Praisebuilders- Kindergarten thru 5th Grade

God Squad- 6th Grade thru 12th Grade



Food Court begins September 6th at 5:30 pm. Join us for a great meal and a time of fellowship with your Church Family.

Food Court prices:

Adults: \$7.00

Middle and High School: \$4.00

K-5th grade: \$2.00

Preschool and under: Free



Children's Moment leader Brett Breberg (center) uses a toolbox to illustrate how church members all have purposes to God much like all the tools in a toolbox on Sunday morning, July 30. Listening at left are from left: Stetson G., Bridger B. Magnolia G. and Eden G. Eden holds a tape measure.



Gregg and Sue Alliss finished another softball season with the St. Mark's Lutheran team. Gregg and Sue, pictured at the right end of the team, have been playing with St. Mark's for several years.



Try Something New This Fall



Financial Peace University

Thursday, September 7 - Thursday, November 2
6:30 pm

Sue Maier will be teaching Financial Peace University where you'll learn the proven plan to pay off debt fast and save more money for your future. *Please register in the church office.*



COMING SOON...DIAMOND PAINTING.

What?? Diamond painting is a cross between paint by number and cross stitch. It's a beautiful art form that can be done by anyone of any age, men, women and children (with some supervision.)

All interested can be part of creating a glorious picture which will be displayed in our church. You can see a demonstration of this process after church on Sunday, September 17. At least curious? Join us and maybe even discover a new hobby.



TRIVIA and NAME THAT HYMN

Sharpen your mind, clean your ears, and join us following worship on Sunday, September 24th for an hour of Trivia and Hymnology in the Sanctuary. This hour of fellowship will be fun for the whole family! You won't want to miss this exciting event!



NCC members participate in the Fifth Sunday Potluck as seen from Fellowship Hall following the worship service on July 30. In the foreground from left are: Noel Cotter, Elijah Barker and Donna Lala. Our next Fifth Sunday Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, October 29.



We Heard News From the General Assembly



Upper-Midwest Clergy and Families at the 2023 General Assembly of the Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Can you spot Kathryn and Gregory Chambers?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Upper Midwest Regional Minister Joshua Patty reads from 1 Corinthians 12 before his NCC sermon message on Sunday, August 13 (left). At right, Joshua speaks of "The Body of Christ" during his sermon message. Listening in the background is Pastor Gregory Chambers.



A Note About the ALS Walk

Things were a bit crazy Sunday at the walk. I understand several Noelridge people participated but I didn't get to meet them and thank them for attending. John wasn't feeling the best and wisely sat in some shade as we walked but I know he really appreciated the great turnout. FYI, the last update on the team's results before the walk showed 38 registered walkers and contributions totaled \$3030! Our goal was \$2000 so we did great! I think there were day of the walk increases but I haven't seen any updated numbers yet.

Thank you very much for all your help, and thanks to those who came to support John and the ALS Association. Bill



Pastor Cindi McKee (at pulpit) talks to the NCC congregation after receiving a check during the NCC Sunday worship service on Sunday, August 20. Cindi represented Hospice Care and the presented check was from money raised from the July Car Show. Seated at left background is Pastor Gregory Chambers



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Mason Himes	September 3
Alan Anderson	September 5
Max Lightfoot	September 5
Elijah Barker	September 8
Jack C.	September 8
Stuart Davidson	September 8
Julia Rula	September 8
Laura Montgomery	September 9
Elixys E.	September 10
Jim Pruitt	September 11
Katie Wehring	September 11
Nicole Wehring	September 11
Paige Wehring	September 11
Dave Hoagland	September 14
Theresa Smith	September 19
Betty Graham	September 21
Brittany Kerns	September 21
Larry King	September 21
Nathan Williams	September 22
Neisha Kitzman	September 28
Diane Rothrock	September 28



John and Char Wilson pose behind a cake made in recognition of their 65th wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 20.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

JoAnn Sexton
131 Mango Drive
Hiawatha, IA 52233



Moment In NCC History



Chancel Choir sings "God is Our Refuge" during the NPCC/NCC 50th Anniversary service on Sunday, September 20, 2009. On Saturday, September 19 the church featured fellowship time and a dinner program, with the worship service and an open house on Sunday. From left: Karen Martin, Cindy Smith, Donna Lala, Elizabeth Blocksome, Shirley Wellington-Bruegge, Karen Howe, JoAnne Pruitt, Kay Alexander, Dan Bruegge, Brian Bast, Ray Howe, Gregg Alliss.

Happy Anniversary!



Larry & Margaret Chambers	September 1
Jerry & Kay Duball	September 4
Scott & Cathy Appleget	September 5
JD & Theresa Smith	September 5
Richard & Pauline Goldsberry	September 11
Pat & Sally Courtney	September 27
David & Susan Hoagland	September 30

Thank you for the birthday cards and well wishes for my birthday. It's such a blessing to have so many wonderful friends.

Thank you – Donna Lala



September 2023						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <p>Regular Wednesday Schedule 5:30 pm Food Court 6:00 pm Praise Builders & God Squad 6:05 pm Bible Study (30 min.) 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>					1 Craft Group 1 pm	2 Africa Garage Sale at Donna Lala's 8am-4pm
3 Sunday Schedule	4 Labor Day Office closed	5 MOPS 9 am Collins - 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer - 12 pm	6 Regular Wednesday Schedule	7 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	8 Craft Group 1 pm SEMP Prep 12 pm	9 SEMP 8 am - 3 pm Men's Breakfast 9 am
10 Sunday Schedule Pizza with the Pastor - 11 am	11 Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	12 MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Collins - 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer - 12 pm	13 Regular Wednesday Schedule	14 Newsletter Deadline 12 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	15 Craft Group 1 pm	16
17 Sunday Schedule Diamond Painting Demo 11 am	18 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	19 MOPS 9 am Collins - 9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer - 12 pm NFL (Napoli's) 4:30 pm	20 Regular Wednesday Schedule	21 Arts for Africa Set-up Card Ministry 10 am Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	22 Arts for Africa Set-up Craft Group 1 pm	23 Arts for Africa 10 am - 3 pm
24 Sunday Schedule Family Trivia & Name That Hymn 11 am	25 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	26 Collins - 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am Bible Study & Prayer - 12 pm	27 Regular Wednesday Schedule	28 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	29 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm Craft Group 1 pm	30 



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

Return Service Requested



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Volume 67, Issue 9

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

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A Disciples of Christ Church

