



Noelridge News

October 2023

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

Volume 67, Issue 10

Welcome to Amanda and Randy in New Staff Positions!



Please join us in welcoming Randy Walton and Amanda Freese into their new roles on our Church Staff here at NCC. Randy, in addition to serving as our Organist, is taking on a new role as Director of Music at NCC. Amanda is joining us as the Director of Chancel Choir. Together Randy and Amanda bring 40+ years of musical experience in the Church to NCC. We are excited to share in the ways they will minister to us through music in the months to come!

Please join us on Sunday, October 29th, for a Celebration of Music Sunday. We will be formally installing Randy and Amanda into their new roles here at NCC.

P.S.- it's never to late to join the Choir!

The NCC Chancel Choir returned for the fall season on Sunday, September 17, under the direction of Amanda Freese (center), with the special music performance of "Lamb of God." Front row, from left: Karen Howe, Karen Martin, Diana Ellingson, Trudy Stewart, Jenna Netz, JoAnne Pruitt, Elizabeth Blocksome. Middle row: Max L., Elijah Barker, Nora W., Kim Anderson, Sandy Klein, Kay Alexander. Back row: Tom Ohrt, Pete Sherman, Gregg Alliss, Dave Martin, Ray Howe.



Signs Along the Way



Let's have an honest chat. It is just me, you and probably the computer screen.

It's October, the foliage is changing, fog is heavy in the morning, the air is cooler, and you know that this month at the Church all we're going to talk about is money. Aw, yes, it's time for the dreaded Stewardship Campaign. The time when you hear bad jokes about giving up your daily pumpkin-spiced coffee and how if everyone just gave 10% more the Church wouldn't have any money issues. You'll probably hear a Dave Ramsey quote or two, you may even feel compelled to give more by a carefully crafted and articulated Stewardship Letter.

Yet, you also are wrestling with the realities of life. You may be on a fixed income. You may be getting ready to send your children or grandchildren off to college. You may be expecting a new baby like me in the coming year and diapers aren't cheap! You may just feel that gas is too expensive, and the price of bread is too high. And... And... And... the list goes on... speaking of cringey Stewardship quotes, "*Jesus invested his life in yours. Have you shown any interest?*"

Look, I get it. Life is hard. The number one cause of fights in marriage and relationships are money fights. One of the biggest concerns in the minds of the average American consumer is the rising cost of groceries and household goods. Debt is at an all-time high. 60% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. And the Church has the impertinence to ask you for more funds to support the ministry and mission of the Church. It doesn't seem like a fair ask, yet it is what is required of us.

You see the Church, unlike most organizations, only has one primary source of income- generosity. Generosity is at the root of Stewardship. Yes, stewardship is so often made out to be all about the money. But, in fact biblical Stewardship has very little to say or to offer about green backs. Rather biblical Stewardship is based in the idea of receiving and giving of God's blessings. Stewardship then is not about how much money muscle you flex, but rather about how much generosity muscle you use. Time and time again in the Bible we see stories of generosity, these stories are upheld as the model for biblical Stewardship. Stories such as the widow who brought two coins and gave all she had. Stories like the little boy who gave up his lunch so others could eat. Stories like a Pharisee who gave up his resting place for another. Stories that celebrate the generosity of a good and gracious God.

This month during the Stewardship Campaign, I would you invite you to consider following a pattern of biblical Stewardship, to flex your generosity muscle, as you learn more about your good and gracious God. And who knows, you like me, may find out, "*The only way to Financial Peace is to walk daily with the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus.*" – Dave Ramsey, I told you there'd be at least one! See you soon!

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:

Neisha K. and family
Family of Carrie S.
Barb and LaVerne L., parents of Lori D.
Friends of Kathryn D.
Paula L., sister of Walt H.
Betty G.
Dan and Kay M.
Dan B. and family
Joe and Carmen F. and family
Theodore B. and his fiancée, Mwamba T.



Above: Pastor Gregory Chambers asks children about their favorite school subject as part of the Backpack Blessing and Prayer during worship on August 27. Adults contributing to the moment were Kellie Lala, Lori Davidson, Hannah Davidson and Amanda Freese.

Below: The congregation symbolically lays hands on the children participating in the Backpack Blessing and Prayer as they begin a new school year.



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.

Watch for information on location and the RSVP host for the October 17 dinner,



Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, October 24, at 9 am. Watch for information about the location. Come join us!

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



Saturday, October 14, at 9:00 AM





What's on Your Plate?

A more modern form of the food pyramid was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2011. They use "MyPlate" to help people visualize the different food groups and the recommended amounts of each in order to get the best nutrition possible to fuel our bodies and promote good health. It is made up of 5 sections. Half the plate is fruits and vegetables, while the other half consists of grains and healthy protein. Add a serving of dairy, and you have a balanced diet, according to nutritionists. This a visual way to show the healthiest amounts of each food group to maintain a healthy diet.

Maintaining a balanced diet is only one piece of our overall health and well-being. It is important to live our lives in ways that balance our social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs. We make choices about what foods fuel our physical needs, and we also have choices about how to fulfill our social, emotional, and spiritual needs.

The scriptural reference in one of my favorite hymns, "It Is Well with My Soul," is 3 John 1:2. John says, "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health as it goes well with your soul." Following basic nutritional guidelines helps keep us in good physical health. We also need to take steps to nurture our souls.

If you would look at the plate that holds your daily and weekly activities, how much time are you spending to nurture your social, emotional, and spiritual health? It's easy to get caught up in our jobs, running errands, and mindless hours of television, computer games, surfing the internet and social media. If you have children at home, you find your plate filled with their activities and responsibilities for their care.

What are you doing to feed your soul? Are you spending time reading or listening to a daily or regular devotional? Do you set aside time for prayer? In what ways are you involved in the life of the church? Are you getting involved in Sunday School classes, small groups, and book studies? Are you spending time in fellowship with your church family? Is there a role in church leadership that matches your skills or interests? Are you reaching out to minister to others and share the love that God shares with you? There are many ways to fuel your soul to help maintain a healthy balance in your life.

How are you filling your spiritual plate?



Each Sunday, the Elders and service participants join in a prayer circle to pray for our worship and congregation. Clockwise, from left: Karen Howe, Theresa Smith, Pastor Gregory Chambers, Kellie Lala, Walt Hargraves, Amanda Freese and Randy Walton pray before the NCC Sunday worship service on September 17.



Attendees to the NCC Fall Book Study (The Good and Beautiful God) are shown in the "Blue Room" on Wednesday evening, September 6. Clockwise, from lower left: Helen Houchen, Jane Groves, Kelly Himes, Walt Hargraves, Pastor Gregory Chambers, Lynne Kerley, Rebekah Kerley, Liz Norman, Sandy Klein.



Approaching October 2023 is hard to believe as each month passes by so quickly. We have survived the hot summer with very little rain and look forward to the holidays that will soon be upon us. Thank you Lord for all the blessings that have been bestowed upon each of us!

The Annual Fall Rummage Sale is coming up quickly! Work days will be October 9-11 and the sale will be open October 12 – 14. Gather items you don't want or need any longer to donate for the sale. Please check with Theresa Smith or Sandy Delay for a 2 hour time you can offer to work that week.

Missions group is preparing for Thanksgiving Food boxes in November. Food donations will be accepted beginning November 1. The Angel Tree will be set up right after Thanksgiving with tags of suggested Christmas gifts for children in our community.

The Basket Bonanza fundraiser is scheduled for early March 2024 and will be here before we know it. As time gets closer we will gratefully accept any assistance in curling ribbon, typing cards, cutting cards, assembling baskets and more – no experience or talent required!

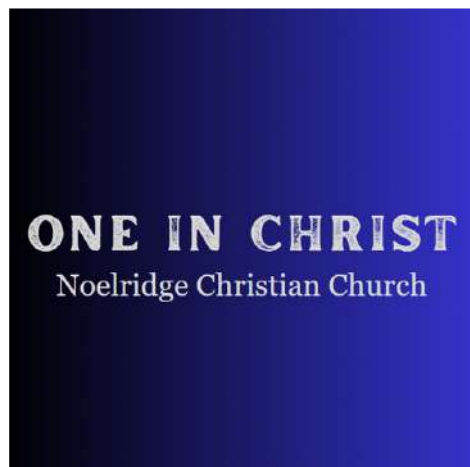
Mission Group is continuing to provide morning snack items for students of BW Elementary in the LinnMar district. Students who forget their morning snack at home or may not be able to bring a morning snack are allowed to select items that we provide the school so that all children have a snack to enjoy together. Various healthy snack items delivered to the school 2-3 times each school year include cracker and cheese packets, single serve applesauce cups, graham crackers, cereal bars, granola bars, fruit bars, goldfish crackers, pop tarts and pretzels.

Make note of these events on your calendar and spread the word as our fundraiser donations will be offered to community groups to better their cause. We will be asking for your help in many ways beginning with prayer for success with the fundraisers that we might help the less fortunate in our community.

If all of NCC works together with time, talent and generosity we will make a difference to many in our community. Thank you for your blessings. We hope God will lead you to be a part of the fundraiser events that Mission group will be working on during the holidays and in 2024.

Our intent is to take God's word out into the community and to bring in and welcome the community into our church to grow in faith. Yours in love and peace as we remember the love Christ brings to each and every one of us that we might share His love with those near and far every day.

Linda Osmundson and Linda Fisher
Mission group Co-Chairs



Please turn your commitment cards for 2024 into the Church office by Sunday October 22nd.



Please join us on Sunday October 22nd for a Celebration of Stewardship Sunday! We will be celebrating all the good things that God is doing in the life of NCC. Please join us for cake after worship!





Neewollah



Neewollah Party

Wednesday, October 25th!!!

The NCC Neewollah is coming up!

Our yearly event will be Wednesday, October 25th, 6:00-8:00 pm. Games, crafts, prizes and lots of fun! We are looking for donations of prizes this year, on the order of things like:

- Small stuffed animals
- Single servings of Playdoh
- Smaller toys
- Puzzles

Items on that level. We will be taking candy donations also, but we have been asked to push more for prizes, rather than candy, as the youth of the church will be getting PLENTY of that from other sources. If you could bring your donations to NCC by Sunday, October 22nd, that would be great! If you have questions, contact JoAnne Pruitt at phaserbait@msn.com or 319-310-2094 See you there!!!!

JoAnne Pruitt



Pastor Gregory Chambers (right) creates a conceptual drawing of the Three-In-One Trinity under watchful eyes during the NCC Children's Moment on September 10.



REMINDER:

All budget requests for FY 2024 are due Sunday, October 22nd. Please be on time, earlier would be even better!



"It's too cold!"



"It's too hot!"

These comments are frequently heard about the temperature of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings. Since the installation of the new heating and air conditioning systems, the church facility temperature is held at 72 degrees on Sunday mornings. When the sanctuary ceiling fans are turned on, they create a 'windchill' effect, cooling and circulating much cooler air (from 72 degrees down to 68 degrees), creating drafts on us as we sit in the pews. This is a relief for some, but for others it causes the shivers. Temperature is a constant dilemma, so please dress accordingly!



Carolyn Smith (left) leads the God Squad class in the Youth Room on Wednesday evening, September 6. Youth members are, clockwise background from left: Elixys E., Aiden H., Max L., Nora W., Zoey L.





FALL RUMMAGE SALE

Mark your calendars! It's time for the fall rummage sale! Start cleaning out your closets, shelves, cupboards, and garages.

Sale Days: Thursday, October 12 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Friday, October 13 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
 Saturday, October 14 8:00 am to 12:00 noon **Bag Day**

Intake Days Monday, October 9 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 Tuesday, October 10 8:00 am to 12:00 noon and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
 Wednesday, October 11 8:00 am to 12:00

DUE TO AN EVENT AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY, OCT 8, ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED PRIOR TO MON, OCTOBER 10!!

Pricing kits/guidelines are available in the narthex. All items other than books, clothes, and jewelry must be marked. Unmarked items may be taken to Salvation Army at the end of each intake day.

Please:

NO summer clothes

NO TV's nor outdated electronics.

All items must be clean, in good shape, and in working order. Please don't use Noelridge Rummage Sale to dump things that should go in the trash. It's a much shorter trip to your trash can than it is to the church!

If interested, you may contact Theresa Smith to reserve a table to sell your own items for a donation to the church of 10% of your proceeds.

Points of contact

Theresa Smith 319-213-2606, dustoffmomma@aol.com

Sandy Delay 319-393-3035, skdelay1944@gmail.com



Calling One- Calling All!

Make plans to stir the beans and bring the heat at NCC's Chili Cook Off on Sunday, October 1st following Worship. This will be a good ole time of fellowship and great food! We are in need of Chili and sides. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk or in the Church Office. We'll see you there!



Lisa Stolba, Pat Hopper and Kellie Lala perform a promotional song and dance number for the upcoming "Noelridge Night Club" event during the Sunday worship service on September 24.



Celebrate the Installation of Pastor Gregory on November 5

We rejoice that we are installing Gregory Chambers as our Senior Pastor on Sunday, November 5! Rev. Josh Patty, Regional Minister and President of the Upper Midwest Region of the Christian Church (DOC) and Rev. Steve Chambers, Senior Minister at New Hope Christian Church of Oklahoma City, OK, (Gregory's father) will be a part of this special service. You may be thinking, "Why now?" Timing. The holiday season began shortly after Pastor Gregory and Kathryn began their ministries with us last October 1, followed by Cameron's unexpected passing in February. Wanting to have as many Noelridge members present as possible, we knew summer wasn't the time to schedule this joyous event. So after working with three pastors' schedules, November 5 became the day!

You are invited to a luncheon following the November 5 worship service to celebrate the Chambers' year anniversary with us and Pastor Gregory's installation to Noelridge Christian Church.



Pastor Gregory Chambers delivers his sermon message "God the Father" during the NCC Sunday worship service on September 10. The sermon was the first of three in a series titled "The Trinity."



Music is Special!



Sandy Klein sings "The Christian Prayer" accompanied on piano by Randy Walton, special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on August 27.



Right: The Praise team performs "Your Grace Still Amazes Me" on Sunday, September 24. At piano: Randy Walton. Standing, from left: Elijah Barker, Elizabeth Blocksome, Karen Howe and Karen Martin. Karen Martin arranged the autumn decorations in the sanctuary, assisted by Jealee Weber.



NCC Director of Music Randy Walton performs "My Jesus, I Love Thee," special music during the Sunday worship service on September 10.



NCC drummer William Arnold practices before the Sunday worship service on September 24.



Church Happenings



Arts for Africa Thank you!

Asanta Sana (thank you very much in Swahili) for everyone who came to support this annual event last month. From shopping the local artists, bidding on silent auction packages, making and purchasing yummy baked goods or taking home a unique African item. Every bit makes a big difference for the Tumaini Students and we are very grateful. Thanks to the committee and volunteers who make this event possible. As they say, it takes a village.

Blessings!

Kellie Lala



At left: Bayo and Lightness celebrating 94 7th grade graduates in September.



Seated at the Arts for Africa registration table on Saturday morning, September 23, are, from left: Kellie Lala, Linda Osmondson and Sue Maier. The event raised a record \$11,000 on the first day, with money going to help Tumaini Schools in Tanzania.



The Trivia and Name that Hymn event is shown in Fellowship Hall following the NCC Sunday worship service on September 24. Standing at center is Trudy Stewart, who posed the trivia questions, and seated at the piano is Randy Walton, who played hymns for the participants to guess.

Food Court Fun

NCC Food Court volunteers are shown in the NCC kitchen on Wednesday evening, September 6. From left: Sharon Wilcox, Amy Spangelo and Lynne Davis. Not pictured were: Carole Northway and Kevin Spangelo.



Sharon Wilcox (left) and Mary Score (center) service garlic bread and lasagne to Teygan L., Jessica Jakoubek, Patti Weber Jakoubek and Michael Teply.

NCC's Fellowship Hall is shown on Wednesday evening, September 6, during the first Food Court of the Fall season.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Sandy Delay	October 4
BJ Clouston	October 7
Jealee Weber	October 14
Ruth Rothrock	October 16
Sue Alliss	October 18
Carol Blanchard	October 19
Richard Goldsberry	October 27
Aidan H.	October 27
Chris Klein	October 27
Walt Hargraves	October 28
Cierra M.	October 30

Happy Anniversary!

Chris & Sandy Klein	October 6
Leland & Linda Osmundson	October 28



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 October, the Elders "on call" are:
Theresa Smith (319) 213-2606
Lisa Stolba (319) 361-3908



Thanks for the Photos!

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

Welcome, New Member!



Noél Cotter (center) is officially welcomed as a new NCC member by Pastor Gregory Chambers and Elder Lisa Stolba at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service on September 24. Noél was an active attendee at the church for about two years.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Marilyn Skow-Petee
1644 Huron Drive
Marion, IA 52302



Moment In NCC History



Makeup artist Paul Smith (left) applies his craft to the face of Gregg Alliss on October 7, 2007. NCC monologue actors brought Biblical stories to life between Sunday services during the summer and into the autumn of 2007. At right, Gregg, in finished attire, acts out the battered but grateful main character in The Parable of the Good Samaritan.





Calendar

Regular Wednesday Schedule

5:30 pm Food Court
 6:00 pm Praise Builders & God Squad
 6:05 pm Book Study
 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

October 2023

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday Schedule World Communion Sunday Chili Cook-Off 11 am	2 Visitation and Funeral for Chuck Kitzman 9:30 & 10:30 am Elder mtg. 5:30 pm	3 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm	4 Wednesday Schedule	5 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	6 Craft Group 1 pm	7 Wedding 2 pm
8 Sunday Schedule NCC Gala 5 pm	9 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm Sale Prep	10 MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am Sale Prep	11 Wednesday Schedule Sale Prep	12 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Fall Rummage Sale 8 - 1 pm	13 Craft Group 1 pm Fall Rummage Sale 8 - 1 pm	14 Men's Breakfast 9 am Fall Rummage Sale 8 - 12 pm
15 Sunday Schedule	16 Steering Board mtg. 5:30 pm	17 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm	18 Wednesday Schedule	19 Newsletter Deadline 12 pm Financial Peace University 6:30 pm	20 Craft Group 1 pm	21
22 Sunday Schedule Stewardship Celebration Sunday Party 11 am	23 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	24 Collins 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	25 Wednesday Schedule	26 Financial Peace University 6:30 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	27 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	28 Private Event in Parking Lot 1 - 4 pm
29 Sunday Schedule Music Celebration Sunday	30	31 Collins 9:30 am	 <p>Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time</p> 			



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

Return Service Requested



Noelridge News

October 2023
Volume 67, Issue 10

Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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gregory@noelridgechristian.org

Randy Walton, Music Director
randy@noelridgechristian.org

Amanda Freese, Choir Director
Amanda@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

