



Noelridge News

April 2024

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

Volume 68, Issue 4

Easter Joy at NCC



The NCC sanctuary during the Easter Sunday service on March 31. About 145 people attended the service.



Elijah Barker (left) affirms his faith with Pastor Gregory Chambers as he is welcomed as a new NCC member at the conclusion of the Easter Sunday service on March 31. Welcome, Elijah! *(Sue Alliss photo)*



The Chancel Choir and invited congregational members sing the Hallelujah Chorus at the conclusion of the NCC Easter Sunday service on March 31. Directing at right is Amanda Freese. *(Sue Alliss photo)*



Easter Egg Hunt
At Left: Children pose before heading out for the Easter Egg Hunt.



At Right: Children gather eggs on this 43° morning.

(More Holy Week pictures on page 5)



Signs Along the Way



Many years ago, my grandfather and I went hiking on one of the most beautiful trails in Colorado, named Burning Bear trail. The hike up Burning Bear begins with a gentle walk through a valley of mountain wildflowers, after crossing a stream you begin the slow steady climb to the crest of the trail through lodgepole pines. It's a simple trail to follow, with the exception of about halfway up the trail, you come to a fork in the path. The signpost reads,

Trail continues Left

Return to parking continue Right

Now, one would think that the forks take you in different directions, and they do. However, what makes this trail unique is that both the left and the right path lead you back to the same destination. Yes, the right path leads you to the parking lot but if you follow the left path it returns at the end of the trail to the parking lot too. The question then is raised what path do you follow?

Tucked away in the 119th Psalm we find these words:

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

Over the coming weeks and months, you as a Church will have the opportunity to pray and discern what path God is leading you down. You will have the opportunity to share in conversation about who you are sensing God is calling you to be. You will have the opportunity to fellowship around the tables and share together in ministry and in mission. And while the time has come for us to take different trails, I am confident that whatever trails we are led down, as long as we allow God to lead us, God will lead us to our forever home where we will be reunited.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your minister. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for cherishing us. Thank you for allowing us to still cheer for TCU and learn to pull for the Hawkeyes! (Go Frogs!) Thank you for walking beside us, growing together, and bringing the Kingdom of God a little closer every day. Thank you for being our Church family!

We will see you down the trail!

-The Chambers



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Ron H.
Darrell L.
Family of Randie J., sister of Ed V.S.
Family of Leo L, father of Kellie L.
Jessica and Alex Y.
Pat and Gary H.
Maralene J.
Jacob M. and family
Dan B. and family
Joe and Carmen F. and family
Russ K.
Penny, sister of Linda F.

A Thank You

Thank you so much for all the cards, phone calls, prayers and visits while I was in the hospital. I was in the hospital for 15 days and God was by my side! I miss my church family when I can't attend church. My family was here for me and appreciate all they've done for me. Thank you to JD for taking Pam to the airport and Theresa for taking me to all my appointments!"

Diane Evens

Passing of Charter Member: Leo Lala Jr.

I would like to thank my church family for your cards, hugs and kind words in the passing of my 90 year old father, Leo Lala Jr. As many of you know, my parents are Charter Members and I was the 1st baby born to Noelridge Christian Church in March of 1960. Dad had lived in the mountains of Vail, Colorado for decades and we moved him back to Mason City, Iowa in June 2022 to be closer to family (that is where my brother Jay lives). Up until 2 weeks before he passed, he was living independently, walking to the library daily, driving and taking donuts to Jay's dental office. We are grateful that he was active and able to live independently prior to his fall, broken femur, surgery and rapid decline. Again, thank you for your kindness.

Blessings,
Kellie Lala



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.

Our next meeting will be on April 16 at Zeppelins, 5300 Edgewood Road NE in Cedar Rapids. Watch for information on how to RSVP.



Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, April 23, at 9 am. at HyVee at 3235 Oakland Road NE in Cedar Rapids. Come join us!

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



Join us for Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 13th at 9:00 AM.

Food Court

Join us for a meal on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. Upcoming menus are:

April 3 - Baked Chicken

April 10 - Breakfast for Supper

April 17 - Beef and Noodles

April 24 - Enchiladas





Happy spring!

As the earth wakes up, one of the familiar sights in our Iowa gardens and all around the countryside is the blooming Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*. It's a close relative to the European Redbud (*Cercis siliquastrum*) which is nicknamed the "Judas tree", because, according to a myth, Judas hanged himself from this tree. Who was Judas Iscariot?

We are used to seeing him as a villain who betrayed his friend for thirty pieces of silver. But what if he was the disciple who got the hardest task ever, because God's plan had to be fulfilled? In a 1988 (quite controversial) film "The Last Temptation of Christ," Judas is depicted as Jesus' closest friend. When Jesus tells him about the plan, he asks: "Would you betray your friend?" and Jesus answers, "No, and that's why I got the easier task, to be crucified."

In the Bible, Jesus told Judas: "Friend, do what you have come for" (Matthew 26:50). When you think about it, this phrase can be comprehended in so many different ways. It could be sarcasm, but it also could be sincere encouragement, knowing how hard it was for Judas to do what he had to do. We get into this conversation, quite frequently, in our Sunday school class. God gives us our choice to do right or wrong, but is that completely true as God knows what we will do before we even think about it.

"Don't judge lest you be judged" (Matthew 7:1) We truly don't know how much control Judas had in his choice to betray Jesus. This could be a whole other article...about Judging others. So I'll close with; Every time I see a redbud tree in bloom, I can't help but think: Who was Judas Iscariot? Don't judge, because you never know the whole story. Have a blessed Easter!



Elder Pete Sherman plays a segment of "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord" on his trumpet as an enhancement for his Prayer of Invocation during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 3. Watching is Pastor Gregory Chambers.





Jenny Harper (left) is welcomed as a new NCC member by Pastor Gregory Chambers at the conclusion of the Palm Sunday service on March 24. Standing at right is Elder Lori Davidson. Welcome, Jenny!



Children make “Palm Sundaes” on Palm Sunday. (Shelby Breberg photo)



NCC's Fellowship Hall is shown during the Seder Supper evening on Thursday, March 28. There were 48 place settings at the tables. Gregory Chambers and Gregg Alliss served as leaders of the program. Elizabeth Blocksome, Lori Davidson, Karen Howe, Karen Martin and JoAnne Pruitt volunteered as preparers of the food. At right: Karen Howe (left) assists young readers, from left: Bridger B. (Pharoah), Eden G. (young girl), Stetson G. (Moses) during the Seder Supper.



Good Friday

At left: Pastor Gregory Chambers reads from Mark 15 during the Good Friday service on March 29. At right: Jenna Netz and Music Director Randy Walton perform “Were You There?” during the service on March 29.



YOUTH MINISTRY CHANGES COMING.....

A Youth Ministry Committee has been established which consists of Carolyn Smith, Sue Allis, Jane Groves, Trudy Stewart, Linda Osmundson, Lisa Stolba and Brett Breberg. We plan to revamp and revitalize NCC's youth programs. This includes Sonshine Time, Praise Builders, GodSquad, Vacation Bible School, Christmas program, incorporating music into our programs and other fun activities. The Committee shared a lot of new and exciting ideas we wish to implement in the future. This will take time and we cannot do it alone. We need your support. First, we need your prayers. Please pray for our youth, our committee and our church. God answers all prayers! Next, we need YOU!. More will be revealed on how YOU can help! We want to have fully revamped NCC's Youth Ministry programs by the start of next fall. Change is exciting! If you have ideas to share, please chat with a committee member. With God all things are possible!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- April TBD -- Popcorn/pizza/movie night. Look for details to be released soon!
- May 22nd - PraiseBuilders and GodSquad end of the year party with BBQ and Games!
- June 23-27th - Vacation Bible School

CALLING ALL GOD'S PEOPLE! WE WANT YOU!

- SonShine Time -- Need someone to take April 7 and May 5. Materials will be provided.
 - PraiseBuilders -- Need help on April 3, 10, 17 and May 1
 - Children's Moments -- Need volunteers April 21st and forward.
- Sign-up sheets will be passed around and available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
Or see a Youth Ministry Committee member for assistance.

Any questions, let me know! Thank you!!!!

Carolyn J. Smith
319-981-3318 (cell)

**HAPPY TRAILS
AHEAD**

GOOD LUCK

FAREWELL CHAMBERS!



APRIL 14
11:00AM

Please join us for a reception in honor of the Chambers family after our worship service on April 14. We will be bidding the Chambers farewell and also taking this opportunity to shower their little Happy Camper, McColl.



Karen Martin, Trudy Stewart and Kim Anderson perform "If That Isn't Love," special music during the Sunday worship service on March 10. Randy Walton accompanied on piano.



Physical Resources Report

Ever wonder who fixed that leaky stool or who cleared snow from the parking lot? People have a tendency to notice when something doesn't get done rather than when things are running smoothly. Our physical Resources Team has spent over 130 volunteer hours from January thru March of this year working to keep the property owned by NCC in great condition. Kudos to the team who has worked tirelessly to complete the large number of tasks that need to be done each day to keep NCC in tip top condition.

If you see one of these people sitting in the pew next to you this Sunday, please take a moment to thank them for the work they do that literally goes unnoticed. They deserve a big thank you from all of you.

NCC Physical Resources Team – Stu Davidson, Bob Hagist, Ray Howe, Loren Kisling, Leland Osmundson, JD Smith, Theresa Smith, Bryon Stolba.

Linda Fisher,
Physical Resources Group



Landscaping Clean Up

The NCC Physical Resources Team is planning a spring cleanup of the landscaping in front of the canopy of the church on Tuesday evening, April 9th, at 5 pm. (Rain date will be Friday, April 12th.) If you can handle a rake or trimmer, we are asking YOU to assist us in this project. Please bring your yard tools and come when you are able to assist Physical Resources in showing the NCC physical grounds some love!!! If we all pitch in it shouldn't take that long to complete this project!

Afterward, we invite you to share a bowl of soup with fellow volunteers before you head home! Thank you.



The Mission Program group will be putting on a scaled down spring rummage sale during the end of the last full week in April (April 25-27). The exact times on dates are yet to be determined, but will be announced shortly. We will be limiting the number and size of items and will be publishing a list of the items we can take. Stand by for further details.



Thank You from Basket Bonanza Committee

The Basket Bonanza Committee would like to thank all who assisted in any way in the Basket Bonanza project. Whether you donated items, donated money, assisted in assembling or wrapping baskets, solicited or donated gift cards for baskets, purchased baskets or assisted in any way – it was all appreciated.

The proceeds of \$3,000 from this event will be donated to Foundation 2 Mental Health and Waypoint Housing Services which will be used to serve our community in many different ways. In April the Missions Group has decided to restart taking food donations on our food shelf, we will post a list of the most needed items. We are hoping to join with the Mt Zion's Food Pantry & more later on a chance to volunteer at their open food bank on Saturdays from 1- 3 pm.



From the Steering Board

We appreciate the ministry of Gregory and Kathryn as they move forward with their calling to serve a church in Texas. We are moving forward with the search process for an interim pastor. We have met with the regional ministers to help guide our plans. The Elders will focus on the spiritual needs of the church and planning worship with Randy and guest speakers. The Steering Board will work on administrative needs or the business end of the church during this time.

A search team is being formed. When that process is complete, the team names will be made public and we will begin the process of gathering potential interim names and discussions with candidates. The interim is usually a 18-month to two-year process. As Noelridge embarks on this new chapter, continue to hold the church in your prayers. We seek God's direction in our path. Know that we will be guided as God calls a pastor to serve Noelridge. We will continue to worship God, bring people to Christ, and serve our church and community.



The NCC men's monthly breakfast was held at Perkins restaurant on Collins Road NE on Saturday morning, March 16.



Eva and Loren Kising pose with their 60th wedding anniversary cake (left) before the NCC Sunday worship service on March 3. At right, Loren samples some of the goodness during their reception following the service. Happy Anniversary! Below: Reception for the Kislings in the Fellowship Hall.



A trophy table is shown in front of NCC's library on Sunday, March 10. The trophies were being cleared from the storage areas and were offered to congregational members to take home. The trophies represented volleyball, softball and basketball sports and ranged in dates from 1962-2006. On the volleyball side there were 8 first place trophies, 5 second places and 1 third place. For softball, there were 3 first place trophies, 2 second place and 2 third place. For basketball, 1 first place trophy.



Church Happenings



Nora W. and Ellie E. (left) show colored cups stacked to represent the walls of Jericho during Sonshine Time on Sunday, March 3. At right, Zoey L. reacts as one of the "walls" of Jericho came tumbling down. (Carolyn Smith photo)



Pastor Gregory Chambers leads the congregation in the singing of "Happy Birthday to You" for Zoey L. (left) during the NCC Sunday worship service on March 3.



Youth Ministry Meeting, held in the conference room on Wednesday evening, March 6. Clockwise, from left foreground: Carolyn Smith, Linda Osmundson, Jane Groves, Sue Alliss, Sandy Klein, Trudy Stewart, Pastor Gregory Chambers, Sue Maier, Brett Breberg, Char Osmundson, Leland Osmundson. We appreciate all who help with our youth programs. Thank You!



www.shutterstock.com • 147809589

ARTS FOR AFRICA

Arts and Craft Fair

10:00 am-3:00 pm, Saturday, September 21, 2024

Held at Noelridge Christian Church,
7111 C Ave. NE in Cedar Rapids
(just north of Boyson Road)

Shop from local artists and crafters, silent auction and more!
Event held rain or shine.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT TUMAINI SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Kyle Wehring	April 2
Bristol B.	April 3
Cindy Huovinen	April 3
Isabel Sherman	April 3
Megan Hippensteel	April 4
Kay Mineck	April 4
Elizabeth Norman	April 6
Kay Alexander	April 8
Pat Hopper	April 9
Dan Buenz	April 11
Larry Chambers	April 17
Gregory Chambers	April 18
Eva Kisling	April 26
Char Osmundson	April 27
Dan Mineck	April 29

Happy Anniversary!

John & Sondra Coughron	April 3
Julia & Randy Rula	April 24
Jim & JoAnne Pruitt	April 27



For Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact our pastor, Gregory Chambers. Alternatively, and after April 14, two of our Elders are “on call” each month.

For April, the Elders “on call” are:

Pete Sherman (509) 230-2228
Theresa Smith (319) 213-2606

Thanks for the Photos!

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

Welcome New Members!



Pastor Gregory Chambers welcomes Tani Bosenge (second from left) as a new NCC member on Sunday, March 10. Also welcomed as a new member was Charlotte Glance (second from right). Standing with them were Theodore Bosenge (left) and Trudy Stewart (right of Chambers).

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Dave Huovinen
750 E. Foster Road #117
Iowa City, IA 52245





Moment In NCC History



Russ Kauffman positions letters to form words on the NCC outdoor sign on Saturday, April 19, 2008 in preparation for the next day's Sunday worship service. Russ faithfully changed wording each week from January 2002 until the new electronic sign was installed on August 28, 2015. The new sign became functionally operational on September 18, 2015.



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

April 2024						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Elder mtg. 4 pm	2 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am	3 Wednesday Schedule	4	5 Craft Group 1 pm	6
7 Sunday Schedule	8	9 MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am Landscape Cleanup 5 pm	10 Wednesday Schedule	11	12 Craft Group 1 pm	13 Men's Breakfast 9 am
14 Sunday Schedule Reception for Chambers Family following worship	15	16 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm	17 Wednesday Schedule Newsletter Deadline 9 am	18	19 Craft Group 1 pm	20 SEMP
21 Sunday Schedule Physical Resources mtg 10:45 am	22 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm	23 Collins 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am	24 Wednesday Schedule	25 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	26 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	27
28 Sunday Schedule Congregational Life mtg. 11 am	29	30 Collins 9:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">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



Noelridge News

April 2024
Volume 68, Issue 4

Return Service Requested

Contact Us

Church Office: (319) 393-9532 Ext. 103
(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

Lynne Kerley
office@noelridgechristian.org

Rev. Gregory Chambers
gregory@noelridgechristian.org

Randy Walton, Music Director
randy@noelridgechristian.org

Amanda Freese, Choir Director
Amanda@noelridgechristian.org

Church Elders

Lori Davidson
Walt Hargraves
Karen Howe
Peter Sherman
Theresa Smith
Trudy Stewart

Board Officers

Moderator - Stu Davidson
Secretary - Theresa Smith
Co-Financial Secretaries - Walt
Hargraves & Ray Howe
Treasurer - Sue Maier
Trustee - JD Smith
Trustee - Theresa Williams

Program Group Leaders

Missions - Sandy Delay
Physical Resources - Linda Fisher
Administration - Sue Alliss
Congregational Life - Sandy Klein
Spiritual Life -

Elder & Deacon Chairpersons

Elder Chair - Lori Davidson
Deacon Chair - Ray Howe

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: April 1, 2024
STATEMENT OF FREQUENCY: Monthly
ISSUE AND NUMBER: Volume 68, Issue 4
NAME: Noelridge Christian Church
ADDRESS: 7111 C Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1388
EDITOR: Karen Howe

A Disciples of Christ Church

