



Noelridge News

February 2024

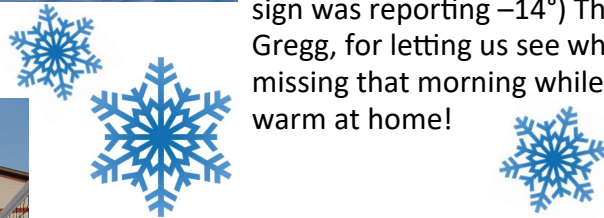
Gathering in friendship. Growing in faith. Worshiping and serving Christ.

Volume 68, Issue 2

We ♥ Noelridge



On Sunday morning, January 14, our worship services were cancelled, but hardy soul Gregg Alliss was here to document some of what we were missing. January brought a lot of snow and on this date, the temperature was -16° with a wind chill of -43° . (although our sign was reporting -14°) Thank you, Gregg, for letting us see what we were missing that morning while we stayed warm at home!



Just for fun—Here are Gregg and Sue Alliss at NCC on a much warmer day, August 18, 2011. Also on the team are Russ Kauffman and Brian, Meghan and Nick Bast. No frost-bitten fingers in this photo!



Brilliant NCC skies early Sunday morning, January 21.



Signs Along the Way



This afternoon as I sat in my office I paused for a time and watched the snow gently fall from the sky. Growing up in Kansas before moving to Texas in High School, I remember many snow days during the winter months. Though, admittedly the amount of snow that we have had over the last week or so, is by far the most snow I've seen in my life. If you drove by the Church this week you may have noticed the following words on our Church Sign:

"Jesus Loves you SNOW Much!"

We put this on the sign before the record snowfall and there is a part of me that wants to change the sign to read: *"Okay, it's time to quit praying for Snow."*

The reality is, that God does love us Snow much. The psalmist records these words in the 147th Psalm: *"He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?"*

Now, I don't think the psalmist was talking specifically about our snow fall but the words fit. The psalmist is talking about how nature (the seasons, weather changes, snow) reveals God's design and God's love. It is winter that is a springboard into new life. Without the dormant days of rest and recovery- new life wouldn't be ready to spring forth when the warmth of the sun returns. So, while we may look at the snow and be ready for it to melt, know that is because of the snow, new life will come soon. Know that God loves you Snow much!

February Blessings,

-Gregory



Office Hours



Please note NCC's Office Hours are now:
Monday- Thursday 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.

All phone calls and emails received after hours will be returned on the following business day.

As Pastor Gregory will be on paternity leave in February, he will not be keeping regular office hours. We will see him on Sundays. Although he will be available to us in emergencies, if you need assistance, please contact one of the Elders (full list on page 12).



Church Happenings



Ash Wednesday at NCC

Ash Wednesday (February 14th) at NCC will look a little different this year. In lieu of a traditional service of ashes, we will be offering two times for prayer, ashes, and communion in the Sanctuary. From 9:00 – 11:00 AM and 5:00-6:30 PM you are invited to enter the sanctuary in silence and pick up a prayer packet. These packets will include silent prayers and scripture readings. After spending time in prayer and reflection you may come forward to receive ashes and communion from our Elders. We hope this will be a beneficial time of prayer and preparation as we enter the Lenten Season.



After Worship Movie and Fellowship

Make plans to join your Church Family after worship at 11:00 AM on February 25th for Sight and Sound Theatres presentation of Samson. Popcorn and lite snacks will be provided! You won't want to miss this amazing story of grace that will unfold before your eyes!



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 February 20, we'll be at Napoli's Italian Restaurant at 500 Marion Blvd. in Marion. Please contact Esther Hudson at 319-393-4839 with your RSVP.



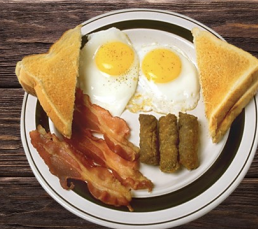
Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, February 27, at 9 am. Watch for location information and come join us!

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

Men's Breakfast

Join us for
food, faith, and
fellowship



Join us for Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 AM.





WE SERVE BETTER TOGETHER

As we transition into a new year, it's a common practice to make plans for the future. We do this as individuals, as families, and as a church. As I considered this process as it pertains to the mission of Noelridge Christian Church, I turned to a devotional by Rick Warren titled, Better Together. In this devotional Rick points out that as we serve in our churches we especially need each other and that we belong to each other in the Body of Christ. I've listed some of his thoughts below on how we might serve God better together at NCC during 2024.

We serve God when we serve other people. Whenever we use our talents, time, energy, and resources to help other people, that's called ministry. But God doesn't want us to minister alone. In Philippians 2:2, Paul advises, *"Make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another and working together with one mind and purpose."*

Why do we serve better together? Because we're family, because we need each other, and because we get more done. 1 Corinthians 3:9 says, *"We are co-workers in God's service."* If you're in God's family, God wants you to get along with other family members. We also need each other as we serve so we can be more productive. Nobody has all the talents or all the gifts to serve his or her best. Romans 12:5 states, *"Each of us finds our meaning and function as part of [Christ's] body."* And, teamwork multiplies effectiveness as pointed out in Ecclesiastes 4:9, *"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively."*

God wants to use us in ways we may never have expected. We each have something to offer, but we don't have enough on our own. That's why we need other people in our lives. God wants to use us, but He also wants to use us in a team where we help each other out.

God wired us so we feel most alive when we're part of a team that's accomplishing something for His kingdom. Teams cause us to get closer to each other, to get more done, and to have more fun. When you get together for an eternal purpose, it builds an unstoppable team that can accomplish great things for God.

I think God has big plans for NCC for 2024. God wants to work in us and through us so we can share His blessings and love with others. As we embark on accomplishing His plans, let's commit to serve better together.



Week of Compassion Special Offering

Week of Compassion is the mission and ministry arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), February 18th and 25th we will be accepting a special offering to support this vital ministry of the Christian Church. If you would like to make a gift, please write WOC in the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support of Week of Compassion.





The Chambers Family Welcomes Baby McColl

McColl Gregory Chambers was born on Friday, January 26 at 5:04 pm weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. and 22" long. We are all looking forward to offering our congratulations in person and meeting McColl!



Moderator Stu Davidson (foreground) directs a Steering Board meeting in the conference room following the NCC Sunday worship service on January 21. Attenders were, clockwise from left: Sandy Delay, JD Smith, Sandy Klein, Gregory Chambers, Sue Maier, Sue Alliss, Linda Fisher, Theresa Smith, Teresa Williams.



Above: Choir Director Amanda Freese (right) addresses the choir after resumption of practices on Wednesday, January 17, after a long Christmas break. Come join them! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 6:45.



At left: NCC Deacon Chair Ray Howe (standing, left) provides information to 2024 deacons during a meeting following the Sunday worship service on January 21.





The Missions Group will hold its second Basket Bonanza sale on March 7, 8 and 9th this year.

Missions Group is needing help from the congregation for this spring fundraiser. This is actually about 3 weeks earlier than last year because of the date Easter is on and with lots of snow we are getting a later start in assembling the baskets.

New and unused items are needed for creating baskets. For a list of items you could donate, please see the Missions table.

Donation of cash is welcome as we will use this to purchase items to finish filling baskets. Donations of Gift Cards/Coupon Cards from local businesses, restaurants, car washes, etc. are welcome also.

If you are so inclined, feel free to donate a finished basket of your own for sale.

We will be working to assemble baskets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-noon and on Thursday evenings from 5:30-9 PM. This is not difficult and only requires some imagination. We welcome all helpers and suggestions!!!! We will also have a larger workday in February after baskets are assembled to finish putting the baskets in bags and adding tags and bows. Watch for announcement of this date to come.

Thanks in advance for your contribution to this project to benefit Noelridge Christian Church.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Linda Fisher (319-361-0540) or Trudy Stewart (319-232-6004).

Linda Fisher and Trudy Stewart, Chairs



Kay Alexander and Randy Walton perform "Stand By Me," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on January 28.



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Family of Anita R.

Diane E.

Lisa F.

Family of Bill B.

Dan B. and family

Joe and Carmen F. and family



Pastor Cindi McKee speaks words of blessing for the Chambers Family and their new baby boy, McColl, during the NCC Sunday worship service pastoral prayer on January 28.



In Remembrance

Roger Welty (right) stands with Walt Hargraves and Royal Norman as they were among those honored as military veterans on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Roger passed away on Monday, January 1.



In Remembrance

NCC pastor Stewart Royce (left) welcomed Bill and Karen Bardwell as new members of the church at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service on February 9, 2014. Bill passed away on January 12.



In Remembrance

Margery Alderman (center) transferred her membership to NCC on Sunday, August 5, 2018. Standing with her are Pastor Stewart Royce and Elder Lisa Stolba. Margery passed away on Saturday, January 6.





NCC Music Director Cameron Sullenberger (center) introduces the number "Say It Loud," sung by the Chancel Choir and guest soloist Shawndell Young (hidden behind Sullenberger) during the 9:30 AM Easter Sunday service on March 31, 2013.



NCC Chancel Choir, pose for a group shot following their "Our King Has Come" Christmas cantata performance on Sunday, December 15, 2013. Front row, from left: Diana Ellingson, Tammy Chambers, Morgan Chambers, Karen Martin, Carol Hedberg, Raegan Martin, (Music Director) Cameron Sullenberger, JoAnne Pruitt, Shirley Wellington-Bruegge, Faith Brooks, Lisa Stolba, Elizabeth Blocksome. Back row: Sara Maslowski, Cindy Smith, Catie Schraeder, Katie Stastny, Shawndell Young, Dan Bruegge, John Caughron, Trevor Stefani, Gregg Alliss, Jeff Busbee, Ray Howe, JR Pruitt, Kay Alexander, Karen Howe.



Carma Lou Beck (left) plays "Happy Birthday To You" to Donna Lala during Lala's 80th birthday celebration on Sunday, August 3, 2014. Leaning on the baby grand piano is NCC Music Director Cameron Sullenberger.



A Prayer Service in Honor of Cameron

As we all know, grief and loss are a part of our life as we walk the path of faith together. To acknowledge our losses, to take time to reflect, and to see what we can learn to help us is important.

Last February 11th, our church community faced an unexpected loss when our music director, Cameron Sullenberger, died suddenly. We know that we all grieve in different ways, so for those who would find it helpful, we will have a prayer service to remember Cameron and give thanks for the many gifts he shared with us over several years.

The prayer service will be in the NCC Sanctuary on Sunday, February 11, at 2:00 p.m.



NCC Music Director and Spiritual Growth Coordinator Cameron Sullenberger asks children about their pets while making a point during the Sunday worship service on April 30, 2017. In his bag are animal crackers.



Member Care Ministry

Under the auspices of Congregational Life Program Group, Noelridge is rolling out a new ministry to help coordinate assistance for the needs of our church family. Theresa Smith, Linda Fisher, and Trudy Stewart will be the primary coordinators. The idea is to have a consistent way to receive information about needs of our church family members and match them with another member of our church family who can assist them.

We are now organizing a group of volunteers to care for church members with needs for assistance. Examples of assistance that could be provided include rides to church activities, medical appointments, or for simple errands; providing meals during times of illness, personal losses, or recovery from surgery or childbirth; light, **temporary**, help around the house; **light** moving assistance (boxes and small furniture); sitting with a family member while a caregiver goes to an appointment or runs an errand; or providing helpful information on current health or safety issues. Other options may be a telephone tree to check on members in times of bad weather or writing cheery notes to homebound people to help keep them in touch with their church family.

There are some limitations in the services provided due to licensure or safety issues. We have volunteers with medical backgrounds, but we will not be doing medical advising or care that should be done by a licensed medical professional. We will not be a heavy moving company, nor a continuous lawn care or housekeeping service.

We will be reaching out to all church members, encouraging them to volunteer to help within their capabilities. Start thinking about how you could help one of our members.

Anyone can request this care for themselves or refer a person that they believe would be beneficial to another church member. This can be done by calling any of the following:

Theresa Smith, 319-213-2606

Linda Fisher, 319-361-0540

Trudy Stewart, 319-232-6004

Church Office, 319-393-9532

Birthright of Cedar Rapids Wish List for Baby Layette Baskets

**Disposable Diapers- Sizes Newborn, 1 and 2
Onesies and Outfits – Sizes 0-3 through 12
months**

Pajamas – Sizes 0-3 through 12 months

Socks

Baby Toiletries: Soap, Lotion, Shampoo

Baby Towels, Washcloths, and Bibs

Winter Outerwear including Hats and Mittens

Spring/Fall Lightweight Jackets

Infant Toys

***Items we are low on: Boy and Girl 0-3 and 3-6
months winter outfits***

***Things we are out of: Infant soap/shampoo, baby
socks, infant toys***

We depend on donations to let us help new mothers and babies in need. We do not take food, formula, furniture, or used items. Thank you!

www.birthright.org/cedarrapids
1.800.550.4900



It's Almost Easter Lily Time!

Easter is on the early side this year—March 31. We'll start offering order forms for lilies later this month, so watch for further information.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Jerry Duball	February 1
Pauline Goldsberry	February 2
Kathryn Chambers	February 4
Karen Bardwell	February 7
Gregg Alliss	February 8
Trudy Stewart	February 11
Gracie G.	February 13
Marilyn Butler	February 15
Denise Piper	February 16
Carolyn Smith	February 16
Brett Breberg	February 17
Magnolia G.	February 19
John Alexander	February 21
Mimi Welty	February 22
Hannah Davidson	February 26

Happy Anniversary!

Rod & Elizabeth Blocksome	February 8
Gary & Pat Hopper	February 17



For Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact one of our Elders this month, as our pastor, Gregory Chambers, is on paternity leave. All of our Elders are available, but the two who are "on call" this February are:

Karen Howe (319) 573-7630
Pete Sherman (509) 230-2228

Thanks for the Photos!

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



The NCC Praise Team performs "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" during the Sunday worship service on January 7. From left: Randy Walton, Elijah Barker, Elizabeth Blocksome, Karen Howe, Karen Martin, Kay Alexander.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

Larry & Margaret Chambers
PO Box 8294
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408



Moment In NCC History



The NCC kitchen is shown with snacks and drinks for the Super Bowl XLVII party between the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday evening, February 3, 2013.



Calendar

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
 <p>Regular Wednesday Schedule 5:30 pm Food Court 6:00 pm Praise Builders & God Squad 6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>				1 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm 5:30-9 pm	2 Craft Group 1 pm	3
4 Sunday Schedule	5 Elders mtg. 4:00 pm	6 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm MOPS mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm	7 Wednesday Schedule	8 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm 5:30-9 pm	9 Craft Group 1 pm	10 Men's Breakfast 9 am Bill Bardwell Funeral at Cedar Memorial 11 am
11 Sunday Schedule Prayer Service 2 pm	12	13 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am	 14 Ash Wednesday Prayer & Ashes 9-11 am and 5-6:30 pm Wednesday Schedule	15 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm 5:30-9 pm	16 Craft Group 1 pm	17 Private Event 10 am
18 Sunday Schedule Physical Resources mtg. 10:45 am	19 President's Day Office Closed	20 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm MOPS mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm	21 Wednesday Schedule Newsletter Deadline 9 am	22 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm 5:30-9 pm Sewing Group 9 am-5 pm	23 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am-5 pm	24
25 Sunday Schedule "Samson" Movie & Popcorn Fellowship 11 am	26 Missions mtg. 5:30 pm Congregational Life mtg. 6:30 pm	27 Wake Up Ladies 9 am Basket Work 9 am-12 pm Collins 9:30 am	28 Wednesday Schedule	29 Basket Work 9 am-12 pm 5:30-9 pm	<p>Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 10:45 am - Adult Sunday School</p>	



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

Return Service Requested



Noelridge News
January 2024
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Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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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

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