



Noelridge News

March 2024

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

Volume 68, Issue 3

Celebrating the New



New Officers: NCC pastor Gregory Chambers (right) installs Elders, Deacons, Board Members and Trustees during the Sunday worship service on February 11. Front row, from left: Rod Blocksome, Teresa Williams, Theodore Bosenge, Katie Wehring, Sue Alliss, Sandy Delay, Theresa Smith, Max Lightfoot, Kellie Lala, Trudy Stewart, Sue Maier, Ken Maier, Lori Davidson, JD Smith, Esther Hudson. Back row: Karen Howe, Bob Hagist, Stu Davidson, Walt Hargraves, Gregg Alliss, Pete Sherman, Jane Groves, Nick Groves, Ray Howe, Adam Carros. (Kyle Wehring photo)

New Members

Ed Van Slyke (left) and Joe Wetrich were welcomed as new NCC members by Pastor Gregory Chambers at the conclusion of the Sunday worship service on February 11. Standing right of Gregory in the left panel is Elder Theresa Smith. Seated in the right panel is Diana Ellingson.



New Parents

Pastor Gregory and Kathryn Chambers proudly show off their newborn son, McColl, at the Welcome Center before the NCC Sunday worship service on February 4.





Signs Along the Way



This week as I shuffled back and forth between my duties at the church and diaper changing duties at home, I took advantage of the beautiful spring-like air and drove with my car windows down. For those of you who have seen me drive my Smart Car, rolling the windows down is like driving in an open-air convertible. I have always enjoyed rolling the windows down, turning the knob and finding my favorite radio station, playing my favorite song, and breathing in deeply God's peace and God's abundant gifts. There is something beautiful and peaceful and comforting when the weather warms a bit, when the sun shines, and in the whisper of the wind you feel a gentle warmth touch your face. It says, Spring is on the way, but it also says more to me. It is a gentle reminder that Easter is coming. For many people, Easter is a time to gather with friends and family in vibrant colorful dresses or in pastel shirts and shorts and search for ever hidden colorful eggs left behind by the Easter bunny filled with chocolate, jellybeans, and if you're lucky a ten-dollar bill! For many, Easter has become a time of celebrating the arrival of Spring. Yet for Christians, Easter is much more than fun outfits and egg hunts. Easter is about celebrating the arrival of life and life everlasting. You see Easter is a gift to us not from a bunny, but from the Creator of the Universe. It is a gift with a simple formula, a formula that is less complicated than some of the egg dying kits. A formula that you and I need to remember this year:

$$1 \text{ Cross} + 3 \text{ Nails} = 4\text{Given}$$

This is what Easter is about. This is what Easter has always been about. The promise that death does not have the last word. That hope comes in the morning. That Jesus, who died on Friday, rose again on Sunday morning. And because Jesus rose, we too can trust that we will rise with him one day, once again. I hope you have a blessed Resurrection Season!

-Rev. GSC



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 am - 12 pm 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.





Holy Week at Noelridge

Palm Sunday Cantata- March 24th @ 9:45 AM

Make plans to join with us in worship on Palm Sunday as we wave Palm Branches and proclaim,
“Blessed is He, who comes in the name of the Lord!”

The NCC Chancel Choir will lead us in a moving message of music during the worship service.

Maundy Thursday Seder Dinner- March 28th @ 6:00 PM

Gather around the tables in the Fellowship Hall on Maundy Thursday as we share in a time of remembrance and a Seder Meal together. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Monday, March 25th. The cost of the meal is 7 dollars per person.

Good Friday Service- March 29th @ 6:00 PM

The Good Friday Service will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:00 PM on March 29th. During this service we will share in the events of the Good Friday as recorded in the Gospel of Mark and listen to the holy hymns of passion together.

Easter Breakfast- March 31st @ 9:00 AM

Plan to attend our Easter potluck Breakfast- a sign-up sheet will available in the Fellowship Hall.

Easter Celebration Service- March 31st @ 9:45 AM

Shout for Joy, Sing the Hallelujah Chorus and join with your Church Family as together we proclaim,

“HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!”

Easter Egg Hunt- March 31st @ 11:00 AM

Bring your Easter Egg Basket and join us on the front lawn following worship for our Easter Egg Hunt!
You won’t want to miss out!





Dave Martin (foreground) reads instruction for the NCC Ash Wednesday-Prayer Time service before going forward on Wednesday evening, February 14. In the background, Elder Pete Sherman provided communion and Pastor Gregory Chambers applied the ash cross to the forehead of the attenders.



Pastor Gregory Chambers illustrates a point of exclusion of groups to youngsters during the Children's Moment on Sunday, February 18. The Chancel Choir watches in background. (Rod Blocksome photo)



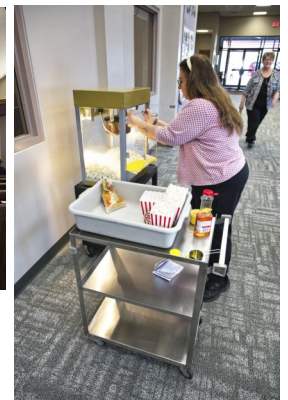
NCC Chancel Choir Director Amanda Freese (right) directs the choir in the singing of "He Never Failed Me Yet" during the Sunday worship service on February 18. Front row, from left: Karen Martin, Diana Ellingson, Trudy Stewart, Paige W., Nora W., JoAnne Pruitt. Back row: Joe Wetrich, Max L., Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss, Dave Martin, Kim Anderson, Elizabeth Blocksome. (Rod Blocksome photo)



It is a tradition of the Church to offer a Pastor's Class in the weeks leading up to Palm Sunday and Easter each year. This class is open to anyone of any age who would like to learn more about Holy Baptism and becoming a member of NCC. If you, your child, or your grandchild are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Gregory. The class will be held on Saturday, March 9, 16, 23 at 9:00 AM in the Church Library.



"Samson" Movie and Fellowship



Above left: The Sight and Sound Theatre presentation of "Samson" was shown in NCC's sanctuary following the Sunday worship service on February 25. Above right: JoAnne Pruitt makes popcorn in preparation for the movie "Samson."



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Family of Cindy M., sister of Ed V.S.

Bev S.

Leo, father of Kellie L.

Vic B.

Ryker H. and family

Pat and Gary H.

Maralene J.

Jacob M. and family

Jan, mom of Karen H.

Dan B. and family

Joe and Carmen F. and family



Randy Walton and Rev. Cindi McKee lead the Service of Prayer and Healing in honor of Cameron Sullenberger on Sunday, February 11.



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 more information about our March 19 dinner location and instructions for making reservations.



Wake Up Ladies!

Our “Wake Up Ladies” morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, March 26, at 9 am. Watch for an announcement of our location and come join us!

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



Join us for Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 16th at 9:00 AM.



Church Happenings

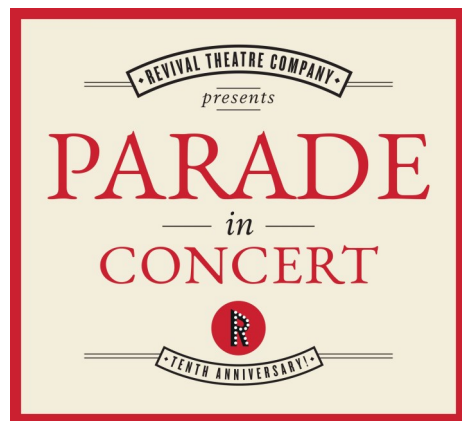


Tumaini Secondary National Exam Results

There were 45, 12th grade students that graduated from the Tumaini Secondary School in Tanzania. They took their national exams and once again, excellent results. 43 of the 45 students got A+ and 1st Class. Two students were in the 2nd Class with B+. Modest Bayo, school founder with his wife Lightness are so proud of these students. These pictures show them on their graduation day. Thanks for your continued prayers for these students.

Asanta Sana (thank you very much in Swahili)

Kellie



Revival Theatre Company's *Cameron Sullenberger Overture Series* is part of a new annual event that raises funds for RTC programming and education. This new series was developed in memory of co-founder and musical director Cameron Sullenberger who passed away suddenly in 2023. Cameron left his mark on the Cedar Rapids music and theatre scene and we want to ensure his legacy lives on through the work Revival Theatre Company is doing today and in the years to come.

Cameron was passionate about singers and musicians; this new annual event will focus on bringing together the area's best in the musical theatre. Celebrating this classic Broadway score, "Parade" was a favorite of Cameron's, so let's support his love of musical theatre.

Noelridge Christian Church will have a special block of tickets for the Friday April 12th, 7:30pm performance at CSPS in the NewBo District. A limited number of tickets are available on a 1st come basis in our special reserved section. Tickets are \$82.00 each and payable to CSPS.

Please see Kellie Lala or call her at 319.721.1820 to buy yours today.





BASKET BONANZA - COMING SOON

We are in the final stages of assembling gift baskets with “Goodies” for Basket Bonanza which will be held on Thursday, March 7, Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9. We currently have completed 242 baskets and are working to complete a few more using the supplies we have in the Missions Room. This project will replace the Spring Rummage Sale as a fundraiser. Proceeds from the Basket Bonanza will go to Foundation 2 Mental Health and Waypoint Housing Services.

Foundation 2 was founded in Cedar Rapids in 1970 and focuses on crisis prevention and intervention for people of all ages. Today, they support people across Iowa in crisis approximately 100,000 times per year. They are committed to positive youth development, suicide prevention and helping build the foundation for stronger and safer communities for everyone.

Waypoint Housing Services is a leader in helping end homelessness through multiple best practice, cutting-edge services. They support Madge Phillips Center Shelter, using Centralized Intake, Coordinated Entry, Rapid Re-Housing, Homeless Prevention Services, Tenant Academy and Balance of the State Call Center. On any given day there are 2,749 people who are homeless in Iowa as reported by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Thank you for your donations and support of this project.

Linda F. and Trudy S.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

Justin Howe	March 1
Zoey L.	March 3
Marty Roland	March 4
Adam Carros	March 5
Russ Kauffman	March 6
Rachel Good	March 7
David Martin	March 7
Susan Hill	March 8
Karen Howe	March 8
JoAnne Pruitt	March 8
Sondra Caughron	March 10
Randy Northway	March 10
Sally Courtney	March 16
Nora W.	March 16
Bev Stratton	March 19
Gaye Roberts	March 21
Bob Hagist	March 23
Kellie Lala	March 27
Nick Groves	March 28
Robin McVeigh	March 30
Sharon Wilcox	March 30

Happy Anniversary!

Loren & Eva Kisling (60th!)	March 1
Kevin & Amy Spangelo	March 30



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 March, the Elders "on call" are:

Walt Hargraves (319) 929-9967
Trudy Stewart (319) 232-6004



New member Joe Wetrich performs "You Are Mine," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on February 4. Accompanying on piano is Music Director Randy Walton.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

David & Susan Hoagland
415 Crimson Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



Moment In NCC History



Musicians perform in Fellowship Hall in March, 2008. From left are: Ray Howe, Jeff White (partially hidden), Collin Howe, Ben Anderson, John Olszewsky, Jessie Sundstrom, Jenny Pruitt and JoAnne Pruitt. Seated at far left is Amy Brobst.



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

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 - Adult Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time</p>			<p>Easter Sunday Schedule 9:00 am - Fellowship & Breakfast 9:45 am - Worship & SonShine Time 11 am - Children's Easter Egg Hunt</p>		<p>1 Craft Group 1 pm</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Sunday Schedule Cake Reception Kisling 60th Anniversary</p>	<p>4 Elder mtg. 4 pm</p>	<p>5 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm</p>	<p>6 Wednesday Schedule</p>	<p>7 MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Basket Bonanza 12 - 7 pm</p>	<p>8 Basket Bonanza 9 - 6 pm</p>	<p>9 Pastor's Class 9 am Basket Bonanza 9 - 3 pm</p>
<p>10 Sunday Schedule</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Collins 9:30 am</p>	<p>13 Spring Break (no activities) Choir 6:45 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Craft Group 1 pm</p>	<p>16 Pastor's Class 9 am Men's Breakfast 9 am</p>
<p>17 Sunday Schedule Steering Board mtg. 11 am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 MOPS 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Wednesday Schedule Newsletter Deadline 9 am Physical Resources mtg. 4 pm</p>	<p>21 Card Ministry 9:30 am Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>22 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm</p>	<p>23 Pastor's Class 9 am</p>
<p>24 Palm Sunday Sunday Schedule Cong. Life Mtg. 11 am</p>	<p>25 Seder Supper RSVPs due</p>	<p>26 Wake Up Ladies 9 am Collins 9:30 am</p>	<p>27 No Food Court God Squad & Praise Builders 6 pm Choir 6:45 pm</p>	<p>28 Maundy Thursday Seder Supper 6 pm</p>	<p>29 Good Friday Good Friday Service 6 pm</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Easter Sunday</p> 	<p>Missions mtg. 5:30 pm</p>					



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

Return Service Requested



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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

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A Disciples of Christ Church

