



Noelridge News

May 2024

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

Volume 68, Issue 5

Happy Trails, Chambers Family



Pastor Gregory Chambers reads from Isaiah 52 before delivering his sermon message during the Sunday worship service on April 14.



Pastor Gregory Chambers delivers his final sermon message as Senior Pastor at NCC, "If I Sat in your Pew."



Pastor Gregory Chambers breaks bread during communion on Sunday, April 14. Standing with Chambers is Elder Lori Davidson. Deacons are, from left: Nick Groves, Ken Maier, Kellie Lala, Ray Howe.



Elder Karen Howe (left) presents Pastor Gregory Chambers a large open face geode rock (the state rock of Iowa) as a going away gift from the congregation. Watching at right are Elders Lori Davidson, Trudy Stewart, Kellie Lala, Walt Hargraves, Pete Sherman, Theresa Smith and Diana Ellingson. At far right is Disciples Partner Regional Minister Liz Woodward. April 14.



More on page 2



Bidding Farewell (cont.)



Kathryn Chambers (holding McColl) and Mallory Wills-Howe chat in the Fellowship Hall before the Sunday worship service on April 14.



Pastor Gregory Chambers (center) hugs Neisha Kitzman as she goes through the reception line following the Sunday worship service on April 14. Holding baby McColl at left is Jenny Harper.



The cake table (with the geode) during the post worship service reception. From left: Eva Kisling, Loren Kisling, Karen Howe, Mallory Wills-Howe, Elizabeth Blocksome, Ellie Essex, Noël Cotter, Bob Hagist, BJ Clouston.



View of cake reception in Fellowship Hall for Gregory and Kathryn Chambers following the Sunday worship service on April 14.

Our NCC Family,

Thank you for all of the kind words, well wishes, notes and cards you gave to us at our send off reception. Thank you also for the wonderful shower you gave for McColl! We are deeply appreciative and thankful for each of you. Know you are and will continue to be in our prayers.

Grace + Peace,

The Chambers

Texas Mailing Address:
7025 Wendy Dr
Paris, TX 75462



Church Happenings

Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Tom and Cindi M.

JoAnne G.

Russ K.

Penny, sister of Linda F.

Pat and Gary H.

Jacob M. and family

Dan B. and family

Joe and Carmen F. and family

*God
Answers
Prayers*



Men's Food Court in Fellowship Hall on Saturday morning, April 13. At center is Pastor Gregory Chambers.



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 May 21, we'll be at Zeppelins, 5300 Edgewood Road NE in Cedar Rapids. (We were not there in April, as had been planned, because of the weather.)

Watch for information on how to RSVP.



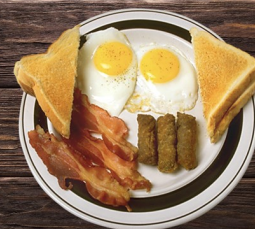
Wake Up Ladies!

Our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, May 28, at 9 am at Feedwell Kitchen and Bakery at 560 Boyson Road NE in Cedar Rapids. 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, May 11th at 9:00 AM.





“For I know the plans I have for you.” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:11-12

I've shared this story with many of you, so please bear with me as I share it one more time.

My family first visited Noelridge in 1992. On that August Sunday, it was announced from the pulpit to a surprised and disappointed congregation that the associate pastor had resigned. We next visited a few weeks later—when it was announced from the pulpit to a surprised and disappointed congregation that the senior pastor, Doug Lofton, had also tendered his resignation. I stopped in to the church office early that next week to ask Pastor Lofton what was going on at Noelridge. He assured me that it was a wonderful congregation and he was sad to leave, but that he had accepted a calling that spoke to his family's talents and hopes for their future. His family was musical and the call was to Nashville, so his leaving was understandable.

The congregation at Noelridge carried on with worship, work and fellowship and we were included in all of those by church members who welcomed us.

Noelridge had an interim pastor when my family went forward to officially join the church. After he declared us to be members, the interim pastor turned to the congregation and said, “These people aren't joining Noelridge because they like me. They know I am only here for a short time. They are joining because they want to be in church with all of you.”

Now, we're sad to have had to say “good bye” to Pastor Chambers and his family, but they have been called to a place close to their home and extended family. It's a place filled with hope for their future and I'm happy for them for that. We should soon have an interim pastor as we go through the search process for our next settled pastor.

As we are in transition, remember that God is always with us and it is Him we worship. Keep being the congregation people want to be in church with. Please pray for our future interim pastor, for our future settled pastor and for those in our congregation tasked with calling them.

Know that in God is our hope and future.

Blessings, Karen

From the Search and Call Team

The Search and Call Team has begun meeting to locate an interim minister for Noelridge Christian Church. The members of the team are John Alexander, Brett Breberg, Stu Davidson, Ray Howe, Karen Martin, Trudy Stewart, and Teresa Williams. The team will work with the Region and our resources to coordinate the search process. We plan to survey the congregation to explore our strengths and goals. We will have discussions with potential interim minister candidates and work to fill this role. We do not have a strict deadline for this process but will follow God's direction and hope to fill the vacancy in a timely manner. Please continue to keep the work of this team in your prayers. The Elders will continue to work to provide speakers for worship services and meet the spiritual needs of the congregation of Noelridge Christian Church. Be sure to reach out to the church office and on-call Elders if you are aware of situations that need our attention.



Church Happenings



Volunteers remove grasses, weeds and leaves from the entrance area of NCC during the Spring Landscaping Clean Up on Tuesday evening, April 9. Chili and chicken noodle soup was served afterwards. *(photo on left by Linda Fisher)*

I want to give a great big thank you to everyone who participated in the landscape clean up on Tuesday evening! With many hands it only took a couple of hours and everyone was able to enjoy a time of fellowship afterwards with soup and dessert. Also, thank you to all those who helped seed grass along the trail!

Linda Fisher
Physical Resources Group Coordinator

thank you



Leland Osmundson worked the skid loader to straighten both of NCC's plaque stones on Tuesday evening, April 9. The work was part of the Spring Landscaping Clean Up project. Standing at left is JD Smith.



Bonus History from Gregg



NCC Senior Pastors

1. Ron Connerly, November 30, 1997- December 23, 2001
2. Doug Miller, August 27, 2003- July 6, 2009
3. Stew Royce, August 15, 2011- July 25, 2021
4. Gregory Chambers, September 26, 2022-April 14, 2024



NCC Interim Pastors

1. Traverce Harrison, 2002-2003, 2009
2. James Cotten, October 4, 2009- July 10, 2011
3. Cindi McKee, March 2, 2022- September 25, 2022

As we begin our search for an interim and eventual settled pastor, this graphic details a list of senior and interim pastors for Noelridge Christian Church who have served from our current location at 7111 C Avenue NE. The list does not include the numerous guest pastors and volunteers who have also filled in during that time period. --Gregg Alliss, Historian



Pastor Gregory Chambers prepares to bless the Wednesday evening Food Court meal on April 10 (left). Standing with him is Kim Anderson. The meal menu had a breakfast theme (right).





NCC Music Director Randy Walton (left) performs "Take My Life and Let It Be," special music during the Sunday worship service on April 14.



Chancel Choir Director Amanda Freese directs the choir in the singing of "Clap Your Hands" during the Sunday worship service on April 14. Front row, from left: Karen Martin, Karen Howe, Jenna Netz, Diana Ellingson, Trudy Stewart, Kay Alexander, JoAnne Pruitt. Back row: Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Tom Ohrt, Gregg Alliss, Ray Howe, Elizabeth Blocksome.



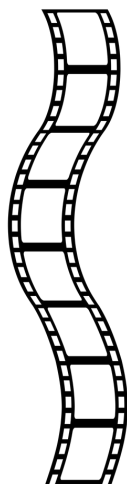
From left Lauren (Williams) Blalock, Nathan Williams and Teresa Williams attended the recent 4-day River Oaks Country Club Men's Clay Court tournament in Houston, Texas. They pose here on April 1.



Randy Walton delivers his sermon message "Unforgiveness Is A Problem" during the NCC Sunday worship service on April 21. Randy was the first guest pastor during the church's transition to find an interim pastor. He provided all of the music for the service as well. Thank you, Randy!



Church Happenings



Movie night update: 7 children and 5 adults viewed Family Camp while munching on pizza, popcorn, trail mix and gooey rice crispy bars! It's a heart-warming family movie about two polar-opposite families finding themselves at a church camp for a week together and how God works in their lives to focus on what is important. You can find it on Amazon Prime.

Photos by Carolyn Smith



CALLING ALL GOD'S PEOPLE! YOUTH MINISTRY WANTS YOU!

SonShine Time -- Need someone May 5
(materials provided)

PraiseBuilders -- Need help on May 1

Children's Moments -- Need volunteers May 5 & 26; June 2 & 9



Look for the new bright bulletin board in the hallway by the kitchen. Sign-up sheets are available on the bulletin board or see a Committee member (Carolyn Smith, Sue Allis, Brett Breberg, Jane Groves, Linda Osmundson, Trudy Stewart and Lisa Stolba) to sign up. For summer months, there will be no SonShine time, but we will take the children during the sermon time for story/movie time.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

May 22nd - PraiseBuilders and GodSquad are winding down for the season. End of the year party with BBQ and Games!

June 23-27th - Vacation Bible School -- theme is Camp Firelight -- a summer adventure with God [more details to come]

Youth Ministry Committee Meeting—April 28 and May 19 after church -- We are coming up with new ideas and new plans. Watch for changes coming your way!



The NCC Adult Sunday School class is shown on April 21. The class discussed "forgiveness." Clockwise, from left: Gregg Alliss, Rod Blocksom, Shally Garin, Dick Garin, Elijah Barker, Pete Sherman, Karen Martin, Liz Norman, Dave Martin, JoAnne Pruitt, Noël Cotter, Sandy Klein.



Church Happenings

Food Court in May

- May 1st – Breaded Pork Cutlets
- May 8th – Brats/Hamburgers
- May 15th – Spare Ribs/Potatoes
- May 22nd – no Food Court; Food Court will resume in September



NCC Volunteers at SEMP

On Saturday, April 30, NCC volunteers helped with the Saturday Evening Meal Program. *(photos by Amy Spangelo)*



Event and Marketing Coordinator at Waypoint Services Jameson Reineke (left) accepts a check for \$2,500 from NCC Elder Trudy Stewart during the Sunday worship service on April 21. Waypoint was a recipient of NCC's recent Basket Bonanza program.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Rod Blocksome | May 8 |
| Elizabeth Blocksome | May 10 |
| Amy Spangelo | May 10 |
| Shirley King | May 18 |
| Mallory Wills-Howe | May 19 |
| Victoria Breyfogle | May 20 |
| Diane Evens | May 21 |
| Randy Rula | May 21 |
| Betty Hargraves | May 24 |
| Tonya Simonson | May 24 |



Happy Anniversary!

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Ken & Sue Maier | May 7 |
| Tom & Laura Montgomery | May 17 |
| John & Kay Alexander | May 24 |

For Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care, two of our Elders are “on call” each month.

For May, the Elders “on call” are:

Lori Davidson (319) 551-0575
Trudy Stewart (319) 232-6004



Thanks for the Photos!

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

Welcome, New Members!



Pastor Gregory Chambers welcomes Randy Walton as a new NCC member (center) during the Sunday worship service on April 14. Moments earlier, Amanda Freese (left) did the same.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member:

Maralene James
Irving Point Skilled Nursing Care
910 7th Street SE Unit 109
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401



Moment In NCC History





High school graduates receive recognition and gifts from Shirley Wellington-Bruegge (second from right) on behalf of the NCC congregation during the Sunday worship service on May 19, 2013. From left are: Lauren Williams, Justin Howe, Emily Bartels and Harrison Moore.



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

May 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>1 Wednesday Schedule</p> | <p>2 National Day of Prayer</p> | <p>3 Craft Group 1 pm</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 Sunday Schedule Steering Board Mtg. 11 am</p> | <p>6 Elder mtg. 4 pm Collins 4:30 pm</p> | <p>7 MOPS mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am GloryBound 6:30 pm</p> | <p>8 Wednesday Schedule</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10 Craft Group 1 pm</p> | <p>11 Men's Breakfast 9 am</p> |
| <p>12 Mothers' Day Sunday Schedule</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14 MOPS Leader mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am</p> | <p>15 Wednesday Schedule (Last Food Court Until Fall) Newsletter Deadline 9 am</p> | <p>16 Card Ministry 9:30 am</p> | <p>17 Craft Group 1 pm</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19 Pentecost Sunday Schedule Physical Resources mtg 10:45 am Youth Ministry mtg. 10:45 am</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 MOPS mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm Zeppelins</p> | <p>22 PraiseBuilders & GodSquad End of Year BBQ Party</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24 Craft Group 1 pm</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26 Sunday Schedule Cong. Life mtg 11 am</p> | <p>27 Memorial Day Office Closed</p> | <p>28 Collins 9:30 am Wake Up Ladies 9 am Feedwell</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm</p> | <p>31 Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm Craft Group 1 pm</p> |  |



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

Return Service Requested



Noelridge News

May 2024
Volume 68, Issue 5

Contact Us

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

Lynne Kerley
office@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 24, 2024
STATEMENT OF FREQUENCY: Monthly
ISSUE AND NUMBER: Volume 68, Issue 5
NAME: Noelridge Christian Church
ADDRESS: 7111 C Avenue NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1388
EDITOR: Karen Howe

A Disciples of Christ Church

