



Noelridge News

November 2024

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

Volume 68, Issue 11

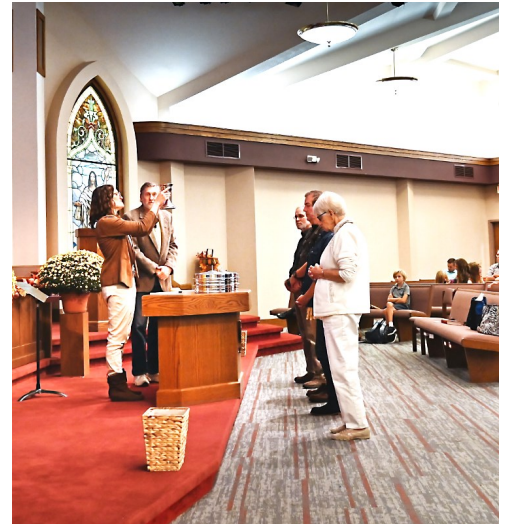
Welcome Reverend Stasia Fine



The Reverend Stasia Fine poses in the NCC sanctuary on Tuesday, October 1, her first day on the job as the church's pastor. Stasia will serve until at least May, 2025, when she and the church will evaluate an extended ministry. (Lynne Kerley photo)



The Reverend Stasia Fine shared her call story, the sermon message, "Church - Who Are We?" and communion as NCC's new pastor on Sunday, October 6.



At left: Pastor Stasia Fine (background) describes the video she is about to play as part of a six-part, every-other-Sunday class about women in the Bible on October 20. Class attendees are shown clockwise, from left: Shally Garin, Dick Garin, Karen Martin, Pete Sherman, Rod Blocksome, Sandy Delay, Liz Norman, Dave Martin, Mimi Welty, Elijah Barker, Noël Cotter, Jim Pruitt, JoAnne Pruitt, Sandy Klein. Not pictured was Gregg Alliss.



A Message From Our Pastor

Dear Congregation,

“I am delighted to see you!” Imagine how it would feel if each person you met at worship, at your next family gathering, or even in your neighborhood, greeted you with those words. Wouldn’t it feel great?!

When Jesus met his friends at the Sea of Galilee (Tiberias), shortly after his resurrection, he had an interesting exchange with Simon Peter (see John 21). Peter had denied him three times and Jesus asks him three times, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” To which Peter responds, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” And then Jesus responds by asking Peter to feed and care for his sheep. I suspect that God desires for each of us to care for his sheep as well.

Who are those sheep?

Every human being is created in the Image of God. That image, although stained by sin, remains with us. The image is restored through Christ Jesus and as we are sanctified the reflection of God within us becomes clearer.

God’s sheep are all around us. When we care for each other, we are expressing our love for God.

On November 5th (and in the days prior) we will be going to the polls to elect, among other roles, a new president. And in the days following, we will be responding to the results of that election. We will also be gathering as the people of God for prayer and worship. We will be interacting with our neighbors, co-workers, and friends online and in person. And not long after, we will be gathering with loved ones, who may not have voted as we did, to celebrate Thanksgiving and then Christmas.

Imagine if in all those gatherings, “I am delighted to see you!” graced our lips. “How do we do this?” you might ask. It begins with focusing on joy. Before you meet someone, take time to recall a memory you have of or with that person that brings you joy. If you are struggling with this, pray about it and ask God to bring something to mind. Then consider one or more ways you can give thanks to God for that person. When you do meet, ask others, “What brings you joy?” or “What is one of your favorite memories of our time together?” As you reminisce about these things, you will be able to look at each other and say, “I am delighted to see you!”

This practice can also be integrated here at church. When we greet one another as brothers and sisters in Christ it is good for us to express our delight in seeing each other. If we are struggling to do so, then it is good for us to remember the times that have brought us joy and to take a moment to recognize the image of God in each other.

Peace in Christ to each of you and your loved ones,

Pastor Stasia

Rev. Stasia Cell: 319-720-6322

Pastor email: pastor@noelridgechristian.org

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with Pastor please contact the church office. Please note hours are subject to change due to emergencies or unforeseen circumstances. We appreciate your understanding if something should arise.

As a reminder the **church office hours** are:

Monday—Thursday from 9 am—12 pm

Friday—Office is Closed

Church Office: 319-393-9532

Office email: office@noelridgechristian.org



For Your Information - This is the Covenant Agreement for Rev. Stasia Fine and NCC

Principle Functions and Goals

- Be a Godly example to the congregation through prayer, knowledge of the scriptures, and demonstrating God's love through word and deed
- Provide spiritual leadership of the church through planned worship services, support for educational, fellowship and outreach ministries, and cooperative work with lay persons and staff to set a vision for our ministry and church programs
- Shepherd and care for the congregation through open communication, visitation, and administering official pastoral functions of the church (e.g. - weddings, funerals, baptisms)

Responsibilities of the Position

Worship and Teaching

- Plan and deliver sermons as the primary leader of worship services
- Coordinate with church volunteers and staff to provide meaningful worship through music, prayer, teaching, communion, and fellowship
- Provide leadership and assistance in planning and executing educational programs, coordinating planning with church volunteers and staff

Congregational Care

- Oversee the pastoral care needs of the congregation, coordinating with the Elders to visit those needing pastoral care at home
- Establish regular office hours and be reasonably available during those times
- Provide pastoral counseling or counseling referrals when appropriate
- Be reasonably available to the congregation for medical or personal emergencies where pastoral care may be needed, or coordinating with the Elders if unavailable

Leadership and Planning

- Support strategic planning and staff/volunteer coordination and execution of church ministries
- Plan and coordinate staff meetings as needed to foster open communication in planning and delivery of ministry programs
- Be reasonably available to participate at the steering board meetings and with the functional teams of the church (at least once/year)

Additional Considerations for this Covenant Agreement

- Initially, this will be a part time position from about September 2024 through May 2025 with mutual consideration to extend the ministry beyond May 2025.
- Recognizing the special need for balance between work and family, the pastor will be evaluated based upon the quality of service, rather than the quantity of service (hours), and we will hold our pastor accountable to faithfulness to God's calling, as well as spiritual fruitfulness born from time with God and care of congregation.
- The church recognizes the importance of respite time and family time and will work with the pastor to take time off and, as necessary, additional time off to meet family obligations. The separate benefit agreement will include specific vacation time.
- There will be scheduled opportunities for the pastor and the chosen leadership to re-evaluate the pastor-congregation relationship and set a vision for the future. These meetings are different than a professional review, as the purpose is for mutual conversation and visioning on the behalf of the congregation.
- Caring for the dying, grieving, and officiating funeral services are a place of ministerial giftedness for our pastor. As this takes a lot of time and spiritual energy, the pastor will work with the elders in advance to create a plan to fill the pulpit on Sundays when the pastor is officiating multiple funeral services within the same week.
- As a clergy person, the pastor has the right to refer or refuse officiating any marriage ceremony. This includes if the reason being given is a personal conflict in expressing integrity with his/her beliefs about marriage (e.g. - if a couple wants to have a service that is irreverent towards God or there are signs of substance or other abuse issues).
- As Noelridge Christian Church is this pastor's home and ordaining congregation, the normal ethical guidelines for the relationship between clergy and a former church will not apply in this relationship after the completion of the call to serve as pastor at Noelridge Christian Church. Also, the church and pastor will both strive to close the ministerial relationship with gratitude, love and dignity.



Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer for:

Kim A. mother and her family.

Family of John C.

Betty H.

Jacob M. and family, brother-in-law of
Jenny H.



In Need of a Pastoral Call?

If you know of someone who is either homebound or a caregiver who would appreciate a pastoral call or communion brought to them, please let Pastor Stasia know at pastor@noelridgechristian.org



Retired First Christian Church (Center Point, Iowa) pastor John Caughron leads communion during the NCC Sunday worship service on July 22, 2012. He was filling in for the vacationing Stewart Royce on this day. John joined NCC on April 8, 2012. The Reverend John Caughron passed away on Friday, October 4.



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 making reservations for the November 19 dinner.



Wake Up Ladies!

Because of the upcoming holidays, our "Wake Up Ladies" morning coffee group next meets on Tuesday, January 28, at 9 am at a location to be determined. 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, November 9th at 9:00 AM at NCC.

Family Photo Opportunity

JoAnne Pruitt will be offering family photos to NCC Members on **Sunday, November 24 and Sunday, December 1**. If your photo is currently not in the church Directory, we would love to have your photo taken at this time.

If you are unable to have your photo taken on November 24 or December 1, JoAnne is offering appointments to have your photos taken on Saturday, November 23 at NCC.

Please contact JoAnne Pruitt at 319-310-2094 or phaserbait@msn.com if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment for November 23.





From Paul's letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 1 – 6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



When very young, I was taught a poem where I would lace my fingers together, then point my index fingers up, then move my thumbs out and then turn my hands with fingers up while saying, “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people!” If someone had asked me what a church was, I probably would have said that it's a building with high ceilings, lots of places to sit, many small rooms for kids to have Sunday School, and a bell tower with a steeple on it. It wasn't until I was twelve and away at a week of church camp that I learned that God's church isn't a building – it's the people inside. (So, go straight to the fingers sticking up - “Here is the church!”)

In early high school, my Sunday School classmates and I were taken to a few other churches in town to experience their Sunday morning worship services. Having always attended the same church denomination, it was eye-opening to learn that not everyone worships in the same way. However, in all but one of the churches we visited, there was a touchstone in common – the Lord's Prayer. Regardless of whether we sang liturgy or spoke responsively, stood up or sat down for listening to Bible readings, kneeled, stood or sat for prayer, stayed silent during sermons or felt free to comment (Amen!), applauded after a musical offering or remained silent in respectful contemplation, the Lord's Prayer tied us all together. The Lord's Prayer marked us as fellow believers in God, our heavenly Father who provides for us and gives us grace, and as believers in Jesus, God's Son who gave His life that we may live eternally.

That Sunday School church visitation experience showed me that not only is “church” not just a building – it isn't even limited to the people in that building. God's church includes all who love Him, all who feel a calling to Him and want to respond to that call, whether or not they happen to spend time in a building with us or in any building with a “bell tower and a steeple.”

We have a responsibility to pray for, encourage and uphold each other in God's love here at Noelridge. We also have that same responsibility to God's church in the world.

Blessings, Karen



Thanksgiving Food Boxes

Missions Group will be collecting food for Thanksgiving Food Box deliveries. Please check the list of food needed in the Fellowship area and help provide meals for area families.





Children eat pizza and play bingo as part of the Logos Program on Wednesday, October 9. Standing at left is bingo caller Carolyn Smith. Seated in the foreground are Shelby and Bristol Breberg.



Kellie Lala talks about God's role in the cycle of Autumn to youngsters during the NCC Children's Moment on October 6.

Can you believe Christmas is just around the corner?

The Kids Connection Christmas play will be Sunday, December 15th during the worship service. We will NOT use Sunday School times for practices. **We will utilize Wednesday nights only for rehearsals starting November 6 - December 11th.** That only gives us 6 practices. We will likely do a dress rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 14th (time will be set as that date gets closer). We are searching for a puppet show with music as well.

Therefore, I need to know if your child(ren) will be participating in the Christmas play. Also, let me know if you will be out of town on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Right now, I would like to rehearse that night unless we lose too many participants. **We will not have LOGOS programs through the remainder of the year. We will restart LOGOS on January 8th.**

Thank You! Carolyn Smith



Let's Welcome Rev. Stasia Fine to NCC!

You are invited to "Conversation & Cookies with Stasia."

Get to know Pastor Stasia better (or get reacquainted), and give her the opportunity to get to know you. The Elders will be hosting three different opportunities for you to visit with Pastor Stasia in a smaller group setting at the church. Join us for one of these special fellowship times!

Thursday, November 7 at 1:00 pm

Tuesday, November 12 at 10:00 am

Thursday, November 14 at 6:30 pm



Pastor Stasia Fine asks youngsters about their favorite Bible stories during the Children's Moment on Sunday, October 13. This was Stasia's first Children's Moment as NCC's pastor. Seated at right is Elder Lori Davidson.



Church Happenings

Happy 95th Birthday, Ruth!



Ruth Rothrock poses with her daughters, Diane and Lynne, with fellow charter member, Donna Lala and with many former members who joined her on Sunday, October 13, to celebrate Ruth's 95th birthday. Below: Clockwise from top left: Koepfens, Shaws, Johnsons, Busbees and Bruegges.



Wow! What a party! Thanks so much for the cards, birthday wishes, and being there to celebrate my 95th birthday.

Thankful - grateful - blessed. I love my church family!

Ruth Rothrock

Fall Rummage Sale



Scenes from the Fall Rummage Sale on Thursday morning, October 10. The sale was held from Wednesday, October 9, to Saturday, October 12 and raised a total of \$3,179.78 for church ministries.





In the Pastor's Study

These are books and other media resources that Pastor Stasia Fine is currently reading or may be of interest to the church.

Books -

“The Other Half of Church: Christian Community, Brain Science, and Overcoming Spiritual Stagnation” by Jim Wilder and Michel Hendricks

Becoming a *hesed* community through secure attachment, joy-filled relationships, healthy correction, and a well-developed group identity based on the character of Christ.

“The Pandora Problem: Facing Narcissism in Leaders and Ourselves” by E. James Wilder

What are typical unhealthy patterns started by narcissistic leaders and how do we prevent them from continuing?

“The 4 Habits of Raising Joy-Filled Kids: A Simple Model for Developing Your Child’s Maturity at Every Stage” by Marcus Warner and Chris

A toolbox of skills for helping your children build resilient character with joy.

“You are Special” by Max Lucado

Children’s book that is about finding our identity in God’s love.

Magazines (on the coffee table in the Pastor’s Study) –

Mature Living

Common Good

The Jesus Film at NCC

You are invited! Following worship on Sunday, November 3rd, we will be watching the Jesus Film (1979). This is the most translated film in history and many consider it the most watched film of all time. It is a simple re-telling of the story of Jesus, as told in the gospel of Luke. Viewers watch as the words on the page unfold visually in Israel. We will be watching the full 128 min. version created for adults. A children’s version is available at <https://www.jesusfilm.org/watch/the-story-of-jesus-for-children.html/english.html> Part-way through the film we will be taking a break to share a meal. We will be ordering pizza. A contribution of \$2/person towards the meal is welcomed. This is part of our Theology: Starting Points sermon series.

Current Sermon Series at NCC Theology: Starting Points

What we’ve covered so far (available on youtube.com/@NoelridgeChristian)

Revelation – How do we know anything about God? (September 22nd)

God - Who is God? (September 29th)

Church - What does it mean to be “church”? (October 6th)

Bible – What is the Bible? (October 13th)

Image of God – Who are We? (Core to Christian ethics.) (October 20th)

Sin – What is sin? (October 27th)

Upcoming:

Church History Highlights (All Saints) (November 3rd)

Trinity – What is a significance of the Trinity? (November 10th)

Commitment/Baptism – Have you decided? (November 17th)

Spiritual Growth – Want More? (November 24th)



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service

This year, we'll be joining several area churches for a Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 pm on Wednesday, November 27, at The Church on Northland at 5200 Northland Ave, NE in Cedar Rapids. Come celebrate a special time together.

Week of Compassion Emergency Appeal

On Thursday, Sept. 26, Hurricane Helene made landfall, tracking across six states, with rain reaching into several more. Destruction is estimated at \$160 billion. WoC has been in contact with regional ministers and has been working with DCEF to provide support. The greatest need is for financial contributions. 100% of all contributions designated Hurricane 2024 will go directly to these responses.

Week of Compassion is **collaborating with colleagues at Disciples Church Extension Fund** to provide support for Christmount and congregations that sustained building damage from Hurricane Helene, and is **engaging ecumenical partners to assess needs, determine immediate responses, and prepare for what will surely be a significant long-term recovery.** Children's Disaster Services has deployed a team to North Carolina; and in partnership with Crisis CleanUp, virtual volunteers are staffing call centers to connect storm survivors and resources.

100% of all contributions designated 'Hurricane 2024' will go directly to these responses.

Gifts can be made online or mailed to Week of Compassion, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206.

There is also a beautiful prayer shared on the website that we are invited to pray in unity with those impacted by the hurricane.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, November 17th, 2024, following worship. We will highlight the success of 2024. We have many things to be considered blessings. We will vote to approve the 2025 budget and nominations for Elders and Deacons, and steering board positions.

Copies of the budget and nominations will be available in the pocket outside the main office door the week before the congregational meeting. We will also be available during fellowship time before worship on November 10th and 17th to answer any questions.

Please plan to attend the annual congregational meeting on November 17th. Thank you for your participation.

Stu Davidson

Noelridge Christian Church

Moderator



Iowa native Christopher Johnstone and Tom Burke will be the featured performers for the second Annual Overture Series, January 24-25, 2025 at 7:30 pm at CSPA Hall as a benefit concert for RTC. Please see Kellie Lala for tickets (perhaps a group ticket purchase). Check revivaltheatrecompany.com for more info and a tribute to Cameron Sullenberger.



Karen Howe and Music Director Randy Walton perform "Teach Me, Lord," special music during the NCC Sunday worship service on October 6.



Church Happenings

Wishing you many blessings today and throughout the year!



Happy Birthday!

James Pruitt	November 4
Vicki Brasch	November 5
Sandy Klein	November 5
Darrell Long	November 7
Annabel Mollenhauer	November 10
Maralene James	November 11
Burton Butler	November 13
John Wilson	November 14
MacKenzie Himes	November 16
Peter Sherman	November 21
Bryon Stolba	November 26
Kim Anderson	November 30

Happy Anniversary!

Nick & Jane Groves	November 5
Al & Kim Anderson	November 23



The NCC parking lot is shown on Saturday morning, September 21 (left), showing filled cracks. The cracks were filled on Thursday, September 19. The fully resurfaced and repainted parking lot is shown on Sunday, morning, September 29. The maintenance work was contracted through Tikor Black Asphalt of Cedar Rapids. The previous NCC parking lot resurfacing project occurred on October 10-11, 2013.



Thanks for the Photos!

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



Moderator Stu Davidson outlines the prepared package for the Reverend Stasia Fine as NCC's new part-time pastor during the congregational meeting on Sunday, September 29. Also slated for approval by the congregation was the retirement of the church's mortgage. Both items were approved by a majority vote.

Bring Some Joy

Send a note or a card to a homebound member.

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



Moment In NCC History



A local television reporter (left) chats with Pastor Ron Connerly during the decoration of the NCC sanctuary on Saturday, November 29, 1997, a day before the church's first service (Advent Hanging of the Greens). Note the lack of carpeting in Fellowship Hall at left, and folding chairs in place of the yet uninstalled pews in the sanctuary at right.



Calendar



November 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Regular Sunday Schedule 8:30 am - Adult Sunday School 9:00 am - Youth Sunday School 9:15 am - Fellowship 9:45 am - Worship			Regular Wednesday Schedule 5:30 pm - Food Court 6:00 pm - Kids Connection 6:30 pm - Chancel Choir Rehearsal		1 All Saints Day	2 <i>Set your clocks back tonight!</i>
3 Sunday Schedule Movie & Pizza 11 am	4 Lunch Break Prayer 12 pm Elder mtg. 4 pm	5 Election Day Polling site MomCo 9 am GloryBound 6:30 pm	6 Wednesday Schedule Collins 9:30 am	7 Conversation & Cookies with Stasia 1 pm Pastoral Care Team mtg 7 pm	8 Craft Group 1 pm	9 Men's Breakfast 9 am at NCC
10 Sunday Schedule Veteran's Reception 10:45 am Arts for Africa Mtg 11 am	11 Veteran's Day Office closed Collins Mtg 4:30 - 6:30 pm	12 MomCo Leader mtg. 9 am Collins 9:30 am Conversation & Cookies with Stasia 10 am	13 Wednesday Schedule Newsletter Deadline 9 am	14 Private event 6 pm Conversation & Cookies with Stasia 6:30 pm	15 Craft Group 1 pm	16
17 Sunday Schedule Congregational Annual mtg. 11 am	18 Lunch Break Prayer 12 pm	19 MomCo 9 am Collins 9:30 am NFL 4:30 pm GloryBound 6:30 pm	20 Wednesday Schedule Newsletter Deadline 9 am	21 Card Ministry 9:30 am Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	22 Craft Group 1 pm Sewing Group 9 am - 5 pm	23 MomCo Family Photos
24 Sunday Schedule NCC Family Photos Congregational Life mtg. 11 am	25 Lunch Break Prayer 12 pm Missions mtg. 5:30 pm	26 Collins 9:30 am	27 Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service 7 pm at The Church on Northland	28 Thanksgiving Office closed	29 Office closed	30 Sanctuary Decorating 9 am



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



Noelridge News

January 2024
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Return Service Requested

Contact Us

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(dial extension 108 to reach the kitchen)

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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 - Teresa 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

