

# The Ceresco Messenger ~ Ceresco Baptist Church

March 2017

**THE UPPER ROOM**  
DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

March 8, 2017  
Devotional

## How Does Your Garden Grow?

Read Isaiah 55:10-13

*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Where I live, March is a transition month. Spring wants to pop through, but winter isn't quite finished with us. I get antsy during the month of March. My hands itch to dig in the dirt. I see tiny shoots of green in my garden. Birds are chirping again, and the sun seems a little brighter each day.

So I begin preparing for spring and summer planting. I clean pots, sharpen my tools, prep the soil, and earmark seed catalogs that have new ideas for my gardens.

But then I remember my spiritual garden. Am I sharpening the tools of meditation, scripture reading, and prayer? Am I taking inventory of the new ways I can share God with the world around me? Am I preparing the soil in my life for new and exciting challenges for personal growth?

During the month of March and the season of Lent, I see the promise of new life in my garden, and I remember the promise of new life in Christ. By preparing for God's new creation during the season of Lent, we can experience new life sprouting within us — life that can bring us new joy and give hope to those around us.

~ Lauri Ricker (Maryland, USA)

**Thought for the Day** God continues to cultivate new life in me each day.

**Prayer** God of all being, may we tend the soil of our souls so that we can receive the new life you are cultivating in each of us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Upper Room Editorial on Wednesday, March 08, 2017

Hello Friends, There have been many changes in my life since I wrote my devotional piece for The Upper Room. My dad passed away and my step-daughter had our granddaughter one month prematurely. I realize my dad is in a much better place with our Heavenly Father. And my new granddaughter is healthy and exploring everything around her. The biggest change was that I was diagnosed with breast cancer. With excellent medical care, prayers, and support from family and friends, I can say that I am a breast cancer survivor. What I would want each of you to know is that through perseverance, prayer and praise, God will see you through any circumstance. God's love and guidance is within your grasp each day. I clung to many verses during cancer treatment, but there was a song that was in my head each day as I would lie down to nap. The song was "Lead Me Lord." I realized that none of us can get through life without the Lord leading us, no matter where our path leads. Many blessings to each of you. - Lauri Ricker

## Devotional for Lenten Season

### **The Cross of Christ**

*I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*

– 1 Corinthians 2:2

When we read this remarkable statement by the apostle Paul, two questions immediately come to mind. First—is it true? Second—is it right?

Was Paul giving an accurate description of his ministry when he said that he had spoken of nothing, while among the Corinthians, except “Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”? Didn’t he mention morality, didn’t he teach other points of theology, didn’t he bring to their minds biblical (Old Testament) history? The answer, of course, is “Yes!”

And, yet, it is also true that he spoke of nothing but Christ and His cross. Because the basis and inspiration for morality is the cross of Christ. Every point of theology centers around a correct understanding of the cross. And all history, including the entire Old Testament, is only properly understood in relation to the cross.

And so we also have the answer to the second question: was it right for Paul to center all his attention, all his teaching, on the cross of Christ? Absolutely! Grace, joy, grief, sacrifice, purpose, hope, love—all of these subjects can only be properly understood, properly prioritized, and properly practiced through a correct understanding of the substitutionary death of the perfect Jesus on an eternally planned cross.

The cross was not an accident; it was not a practice run; it was not just a good example. Jesus Christ carried our sins, in His own body, on the tree so that we, being freed from sin, would live a life that exalts His name. The cross is the pivot-point of history. It is the impetus and standard for morality. And it is the center stage of theology.

Not only is it therefore right to focus all our attention on the cross of Christ, it is wrong not to. May the cross, today, be the focus of your vision and the fullness of your heart. May you know nothing among your friends, your co-workers, your family, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

~ Devotional from Baptist Bible Hour, CCLI# 1646395

## Proverbs 16:3(KJV)

Commit thy works unto the LORD,  
and thy thoughts shall be established.

## Martha Circle Report

### Martha Circle Minutes - March 8, 2017

Members present: Gretchen, Kathy, Pam, Darlene, Veronica, Viviana, Joy,  
Devotions given by Veronica, Viviana, – Grace for the Moment devotional by Max Lucado, “Kind Hearts”, based on 1 Corinthians 13:4 about kindness. If we are able to help people, we should do it. Galatians 6:10.

Secretary/Treasurer – Darlene & Joy opened new account at Chemical Bank. Joy needs to close out 5/3 account and put money in Chemical.

Correspondence – Joy read letter from Maplewood of Marshall thanking us for the adult bibs. Joy read an update from Wayne Niles.

White Cross – the items that had been requested are not needed now.

Sunshine – Pam sent cards to several people since our last meeting.

Old Business – Last bake sale didn't go very well, only about \$12.00. Need to make sure we advertise it in advance in the bulletin. Put reminder in March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup> bulletin.

New Business – Sanctuary Banners – Pastor Gary would like us to make quilted banners for the sanctuary between the windows. 39” x 48”

Collections: Devotion \$9.00, Love Gift \$7.07

Scripture Reading/Discussion: Matthew 19:17-30.

Scripture for Next Month: John 12:1-11

We enjoyed refreshments brought by all, and tied another fleece blanket.

### Youth Choir and Toddler Worship

#### **2nd & 4th Sundays only**

We would love to have other people volunteer to help with Junior Church! If you are willing to take one Sunday a month, please contact Sharon Hadley, and let her know! We would like to have enough volunteers to be able to offer Junior Church every Sunday, with a rotating schedule. For example, Kay Davis & Linda Cole are doing the third Sunday of every month. Could you take one of the other Sundays? Please consider helping out! Thank you!

### Junior Church

#### **3rd Sunday only**

The Martha Circle would like to thank all who donated towels so adult bibs could be made for Maplewood Assisted Living. We were able to make 25 bibs which were greatly appreciated.

Joanne Henley....White Cross Chairperson



Please plan to join us on April 6th for a presentation by “Jews for Jesus”, Christ in the Passover.

We are still looking for a family or individual to host our guest speaker the night of April 6th. If you can provide a place for him to stay, please let Pastor Gary know.

Thank you!

# MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Deacon Meeting 6:00 pm			Cole 65th Anniversary Celebration, 2-4 pm B.E. Henry Bldg
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Communion Sunday  Flowers OPEN		Bible Study 10:00 am	WMT 5:30 pm  Martha Circle Meeting 6:30 pm	Bible Study 6:00 pm		Church Breakfast 8 am  Administrative Council 9 am  Move clocks ahead 1 hr!
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Flowers - Sommers		Bible Study 10:00 am	Family Night Potluck 6:30 pm	EMT 5:30 pm  Bible Study 6:00 pm	St. Patrick's Day	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Flowers OPEN		Bible Study 10:00 am		Bible Study 6:00 pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	April 1
Flowers OPEN  Fellowship Sunday & BAKE SALE!			Information for April Messenger due by noon			

# Lord's Prayer by a 15-year-old school kid who got an A+ for this entry !

The Lord's Prayer Is not allowed in most US Public  
schools any more.

A kid in Minnesota, wrote the following

## New Lord's Prayer:

~~~~~  
Now I sit me down in school  
Where praying is against the rule  
For this great nation under God  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.  
And anytime my head I bow  
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene..  
The law is specific, the law is precise.  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall  
Might offend someone with no faith at all..  
In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the State..

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks...  
They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible.  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.  
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong..

We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles...  
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.  
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take!  
Amen

## **James 2:17-18 (KJV)**

Even so faith, if it hath  
not works, is dead,  
being alone. Yea, a  
man may say, Thou  
hast faith, and I have  
works: shew me thy  
faith without thy works,  
and I will shew thee  
my faith by my works.

## **Matthew 25:40 (KJV)**

And the King shall  
answer and say unto  
them, Verily I say unto  
you, Inasmuch as ye  
have done it unto one  
of the least of these My  
brethren, ye have done  
it unto Me.

## **Church Attendance**

### **February**

5 ~ 39

12 ~ 44

19 ~ 42

26 ~ 45

**Have you checked out our church website?**

**Cerescobaptist.org**

There is valuable information provided on the website, including our monthly newsletter, links to devotionals, our church constitution and rules of procedure, and special dates.

Check it out sometime!

**We're also on Facebook!**

Look for our page:

Ceresco Baptist Church

**Looking ahead to April**

**Jews for Jesus**

April 6th, 6:30 pm

**Easter Youth Day**

Saturday, April 8th,  
10am-1pm

Food, fun, & crafts!

**Palm Sunday Brunch**

The Deacons will again be providing us with a brunch on Palm Sunday after the Worship Service.

**Maundy Thursday**

Service at Newton U.M.C.

**Good Friday Service**

6:30 pm, Ceresco Baptist

**Easter Sunday Services**

Early Service at 8:00 am

Rolls/doughnuts/coffee

Regular Service at 9:45 am

*1952 – March 8<sup>th</sup> – 2017*

*65 years of caring and sharing*

*a life of endless loving*

*Together they have found a*

*Friendship, raised a family and*

*Built a beautiful marriage*



*The children and grandchildren of*

*Albert & Marjorie Cole*

*Invite you to an Open House*

*To celebrate their 65 years of marriage*

*On March 4, 2017 at the*

*B.E. Henry Building in*

*Marshall, MI*

*2:00 to 4:00 pm*

*The only gift needed is your presence*

Unless we form the habit of going to the Bible in bright moments as well as in trouble, we cannot fully respond to its consolations because we lack equilibrium between light and darkness. ~ Helen Keller



# Happy Birthday

Mar 1 Tommy Burke  
Mar 3 Derek Holtz  
Mar 4 Chris (Chip) MacCrossen  
Mar 4 Garrett Skinner  
Mar 9 Brian Markos  
Mar 9 Ron Chisholm  
Mar 9 Monica Entsminger  
Mar 10 Barb Griffin  
Mar 11 Ruth St. John  
Mar 12 Denise Green  
Mar 13 Martin Coats  
Mar 13 Lucas Finch  
Mar 13 Bill Westphal  
Mar 14 Jada Haroff  
Mar 15 Joanne Henley  
Mar 15 Vi Halder  
Mar 18 Brayden Entsminger  
Mar 18 Pam Kirkland  
Mar 20 Deborah Beltz  
Mar 21 Mike Halverson  
Mar 22 Cassidy Perkins  
Mar 22 Danny Sommers  
Mar 27 Sarah (Frey) Collins  
Mar 29 Hainsley Casey  
Mar 29 McKenzie Babcock  
Mar 30 Jody Davis

## Happy Anniversary

Mar 8 Albert & Margie Cole  
Mar 24 Bill & Laurann Frey  
  
Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey  
Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers  
Apr 20 Bill & Kelli Holgram



Apr 1 Emily Biljum  
Apr 4 Alicia Beck  
Apr 5 Gary Heidrich  
Apr 6 Zane Allen Ivey  
Apr 7 Kevin Smith  
Apr 9 Emily Holtz  
Apr 10 Jenny Markos  
Apr 11 Jase Casey  
Apr 11 Shannon Kraft  
Apr 12 Eric Schlee  
Apr 12 Michelle Hatton  
Apr 12 Patty Lutz  
Apr 13 Lindsey Casey  
Apr 13 Ruth Paschen  
Apr 13 Irene Raabe  
Apr 14 Charity Gary  
Apr 14 Reed Goodman  
Apr 16 Darlene Anthony  
Apr 19 Stephany Hatton  
Apr 19 Don St. John  
Apr 24 Stacey Goodman  
Apr 24 Hasley Moore  
Apr 24 Scotie Wood  
Apr 27 Albert Anthony  
Apr 27 Nathan Tuttle  
Apr 28 Linda Schlee  
Apr 29 Jeannette Glen  
Apr 30 Katie (Anthony) Rogers

The Christian life is not about all the things we do for God—it's about being loved by Him, loving Him in return, and walking in intimate union and communion with Him.

~ Nancy Leigh DeMoss

## Ceresco Baptist Church

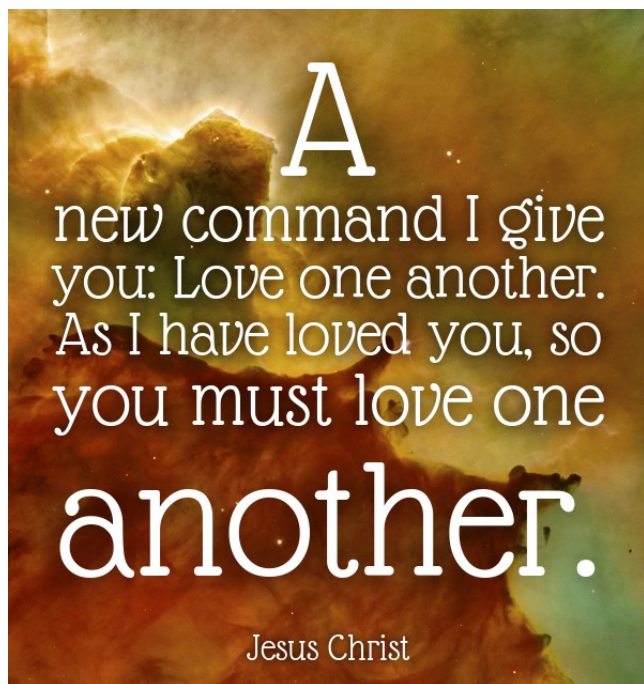
PO Box 35

Ceresco, MI 49033-0035

(269) 964-9669

## Pastor Gary Schooler

(517) 990-5883



### Church Schedule

#### Sunday Worship

9:45 am

#### Sunday School

11:15 am

#### Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10 am

Thursdays at 6 pm