

Greetings from Ceresco Baptist Church!

Ceresco Messenger, March 2020

America for CHRIST OFFERING 2020

Impacting and Transforming Lives Across America and Puerto Rico:
The Love Thy Neighbor Campaign

What is the national goal?

American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) is promoting the America for Christ (AFC) Offering 2020, which seeks to raise \$1,000,000 to support American Baptist mission and ministry across the United States and Puerto Rico.

What is the AFC 2020 theme?

The theme for the AFC 2020 Offering is “Love Thy Neighbor” based on Matthew 22:39: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

How can I support AFC 2020?

You can give during the congregational offering Sunday at your church, or you can give an individual gift online by visiting abhms.org/afcnw. Also, consider encouraging your congregation’s Mission Committee to include an America for Christ Offering contribution in its annual budget.

How is my gift making a difference?

Your generous AFC gifts support our mission—connecting our partners to cultivate leaders and equip disciples who bring healing and transformation to communities across our nation and Puerto Rico. Your contributions share God’s love by:

Cultivating Leaders — Strong leaders advance the mission of faith communities.

Equipping Disciples — Broadening the understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Healing Communities — We believe the power of Christian love can—and will—change the world.

How is the AFC offering used?

The offering is distributed in three parts:

59% supports the ministries of ABHMS;

12% supports the offering’s promotional and deputation costs; and

29% supports regional ministries (ABHMS is the only mission board to share its offering with American Baptist Churches USA regions).

Do you remember what Pastor Mary preached about the last two Sundays of February? It just so happens that it goes right along with the America for Christ theme for 2020! The sermons were titled “**Am I A Good Neighbor?**” . . . God was preparing us for the 2020 America for Christ Offering this month! Please give if you can to the “Love Thy Neighbor” campaign! There are special envelopes to use, or you can just put AFC in the memo section of your check. Thank you! God Bless You!

A Biblical Reflection: On Being a Good Neighbor

I was born and raised in the city of New York in the borough of Brooklyn—a rather large community filled with neighborhoods. While some of the neighborhoods were diverse, the majority of them were populated by people of similar ethnicities. The intriguing factor was that each neighborhood was representative of people that expressed great value in what we call “being a good neighbor.” This value was exhibited by sharing goods, caring for those that required health assistance, encouraging and motivating young people, protecting individuals from harm and participating in social justice issues.

It is most interesting to note that a person’s neighborhood values often spilled over to other existing neighborhoods in the manner in which we were taught. For us, while there was a separation of neighborhoods, the act of being a good neighbor and hospitality was the premier action any time and in any place. These actions were not new but a carryover from the cultures that most people in the community had brought with them from their place of origin.

The act of being a good neighbor and practicing hospitality is not new. The Harper Bible Dictionary states: “In the ancient Near East, hospitality was the process of ‘receiving’ outsiders and changing them from strangers to guests.” Hospitality, thus, differed from entertaining family and friends. Strangers were not to be entirely ignored—or worse, either physically or socially neglected.

Being a good neighbor is important for healthy living. While some may be struggling with the concept of who is our neighbor, Jesus helps us in the parable of the Good Samaritan, wherein Jesus asks, “Which of these three men was neighbor to the victim?” That question can be interpreted as “To whom can I be a neighbor?” The response is one that emphasizes that “neighbor” has nothing to do with geography, citizenship or race. As followers of Jesus Christ, wherever people need us, there we can be neighbors and, like Jesus Christ, show mercy. Jesus taught that the love of our neighbor must transcend all-natural or human boundaries, such as race, nationality, religion, and economic or educational status.

In some sense, as humans in this current generation, we have lost our sense of practicing what it means to be a good neighbor. The whole world would be a better place if there was a resurgence of the act of and focus on being good neighbors. We must recognize that each person has value and holds the potential for great contributions to this world. Many of the troubling circumstances that we are confronted within our society would improve if people of faith drew together as neighbors and gave life to its meaning. It is a truth that people of good character have an inner strength that, when shared through love of the other, will serve to help those who are struggling to survive the social and economic issues of our times.

We have an opportunity to be good neighbors and make a valuable impact on the present and future human condition. Jesus says, “Go and do thou likewise.” Let each of us accept this as our marching orders and seize each opportunity to do so.

Dr. Clifford I. Johnson

President, Board of Directors, American Baptist Home Mission Societies, America for Christ Offering 2020

During Tuesday morning Bible Study recently, we heard the following clarifications for the words "Justice", "Mercy" and "Grace" and thought others might be interested in this information. This came from the "Turning Points" devotional in March 2015...

"Justice" - getting what is deserved.

"Mercy" - not getting what is deserved.

"Grace" - getting what is not deserved.



FAMILY NIGHT POTLUCKS

We had nineteen people and just as many passing dishes in February. It was a good time visiting with everyone.

Family Night for March is the 18th.

We will have corned beef, carrots, potatoes and cabbage prepared by Roger. And with all the side dishes brought by everyone, it is sure to be a good night of eating! Let's be sure to encourage everyone to attend and maybe even invite a visitor or two. See ya there!!

A Huge Thank You!!!

The congregation wishes to thank Dave Hadley, Bob Beltz and Rick Frey for their wonderful work on creating and installing hand railings in the sanctuary. These railings will greatly assist in navigating the steps at the platform to areas near the pulpit. God has blest Ceresco Baptist Church with many talents and folks who are willing to share those gifts. Thank you!

Worship Ministry Team
& everyone in the congregation.



Worship

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY:

Thanks go to Bud and Vi for hosting February.

The next Fellowship Sunday will be on March 29 and is needing a host to sign up. If not for March, then perhaps April, May, or June.

Pastoral Search Committee Update

The Pastoral Search Committee has been reviewing some candidate profiles, and has been in prayerful consideration of the candidates. A couple of them have dropped out (either not interested in us, or has now taken another position). We just received a new candidate to look at, and will be reviewing that at our next meeting, which is March 5, 2020. Please keep the committee and this process in prayer!





- Mar 9 Ron Chisholm
- Mar 13 Lucas Finch
- Mar 15 Vi Halder
- Mar 15 Joanne Henley
- Mar 20 Deb Beltz
- Mar 22 Danny Sommers

- Apr 1 Emily Biljum
- Apr 6 Zane Ivey
- Apr 16 Darlene Anthony
- Apr 16 Charity Gary
- Apr 30 Katherine Rogers

- Mar 11 Michael Meng & Angela Sommers

- Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey
- Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers



If you have names that you want included in the Messenger, either add them to the list at church, or email Joy Sommers at:
cerescobaptist@gmail.com

Please help if you can!	FLOWER SIGN-UP	Greeter	Fellowship Sunday March 29th
Date	Name	Name	Refreshments
March 1 2020	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
March 8 2020	Sommers	OPEN	
March 15 2020	Henley	OPEN	
March 22 2020	Glennie Swann	Glennie Swann	
March 29 2020	OPEN	OPEN	

We are in need of volunteers to sign up for flowers, greeters, and for providing the monthly refreshments on Fellowship Sunday (last Sunday of the month). Sign up sheet is at the church in the entryway.

March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Communion Sunday				Pastoral Search Committee 6:30 pm		Daylight Savings Time - set clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle meeting 6 pm			8 am Church Breakfast 9 am Adm Council Meeting
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am	Family Night Potluck			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am				
29	30	31	April 1	Apr 2	Apr 3	Apr 4
Fellowship Sunday & Bake Sale	Boy Scouts	Bible Study 10 am				Palm Sunday Brunch tomorrow! Deacon Fund offering too.

Ceresco Baptist Church

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Pastor Matthews

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“You shall
LOVE your
NEIGHBOR
as **YOURSELF.**”

MATTHEW 22:39