



# Greetings from Ceresco Baptist Church!

Ceresco Messenger, October 2020

## Autumn Blessings

*by Deborah Ann Belka*

Autumn brings to the soul relief,  
as hot Summer days slip to an end  
God sent the season for weary hearts  
to restore, repair, and mend.

Unlike the Autumn trees,  
that shed their changing leaves  
God sent the season for failing hearts  
to adhere, embrace, and cleave.

Just as with the Autumn winds,  
there comes a new refreshing rain  
God sent the season for fraying hearts  
to increase, grow, and gain.

The Autumn sun is slow to climb  
and dips much earlier into the night  
God sent the season for sleepy hearts  
to rise, shine, and unwind in His light.

God gave to us the Autumn season,  
so we could have a respite and rest  
for it is the season for our beset souls  
to see how much we are blessed!

## An Autumn Poem

When I must go, dear God,  
please let it be  
A golden autumn day;  
when red leaves fall,  
When purple grapes in shining  
clusters hang  
And bittersweet glows bright  
against the wall,  
When o'er the barren fields and  
russet meads  
Their last farewells the crickets cry.  
Let me make my silent journey  
When the homing birds fly south  
across the sky.  
When I must go, dear God, please  
let me go  
As silently as autumn rain,  
As still as lacy shadows 'neath the  
willow trees,  
As calm as is the moon above the  
hill.  
So let me go—and may there be no  
grief  
When life is done and I must say  
goodbye.  
I'll take my leave with flowers and  
falling leaf  
And lie in peaceful sleep beneath the  
sky.

*--Anonymous*

## Ceresco Baptist Church ~ Administrative Council MINUTES ~ Oct. 10, 2020

Meeting called to order by Lay Moderator, Rick Frey at 9:06 AM Rick gave Devotions titled "Have A Good Day, Unless"

Present at Meeting: **Rick & Dawn Frey, Bob & Deb Beltz, Barry Vavrina, Sally Beltz, Ron & Linda Chisholm, Gretchen King, Joyce Cary, Joanne Henley, Mary Ivey, Marcy Bonney, Roger & Joy Sommers, Kay Davis, and Pastor Mary Fair-Matthews** (via phone call in).

**Clerks Report:** Joy Sommers Minutes from the December 14, 2019 meeting were in the Messenger, also emailed to A/C on 9/26/2020 as a reminder. Birthday/Anniversary listing for the Messenger – started blank for 2020, many people did not submit names and were upset their family dates were no longer listed. Need to figure out how to do it for 2021, no suggestions given. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pastor Mary has been doing a lot more work, giving me daily devotions to send out. Pastor Mary recorded sermons that we were able to post to Facebook and YouTube to keep the congregation in touch. Pastor Mary called on congregants to make sure they were doing ok during the time we were not able to meet. Pastor has been working without a contract since April 2020.

**Financial Secretary: Dawn Frey** Financial information through Sept. 2020 compared to financial information through Sept 2019: General fund giving 1<sup>st</sup> 3 quarters 2019 was \$43,560 and 2020 was \$45,409.91, so an increase over last year even with the pandemic! Thank you!

**Treasurers Report: Mary Ivey** Reports handed out, showing income and expense through September 2020. The 23-month CD for \$15,000 expires this month, motion by Dawn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joy to let it roll over, motion carried. Motion by Dawn Frey, second by Mary Ivey to move the Rocho (\$25), Raabe (\$325) & Derrick (\$170) Memorials to general memorial, motion carried. Motion by Mary Ivey to move Bessie Ivey Memorial to Renovation Fund for Roofing, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roger, motion carried.

**Pastor's Report: Mary Fair-Matthews** (see separate article) Pastor Mary commented via phone.

**Worship Ministry Team: Mary Ivey** Oct 4<sup>th</sup> was World Communion Day. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Mary will be on vacation, Rev. Owens will provide pulpit supply. Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day Tribute. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Eve Service, at First Baptist of Marshall, Pastor Mary will give the message. Hanging of the Greens, on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, light luncheon will be provided. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Service, at First Baptist of Marshall, Pastor Katie will give the message. Starting in November, we will have printed bulletins that will include copies of the hymnal sheets for the hymns selected. When we use up the single serve communion kits, we will have real bread and juice for communion, once.

**Budget Committee Report: Mary Ivey** Proposed Budget for 2021 was presented, the same as the 2020 budget. Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Joy Sommers to approve budget as presented, motion carried.

**Pastoral Search Committee: Joy Sommers** Proposal from Pastoral Search Committee to hire Mary Fair-Matthews as our permanent pastor as an independent contractor, updated budget line items for pastor remuneration. Motion by Mary Ivey to accept as presented, with updated budget for 2021, second by Dawn Frey, motion carried. PSC will write up the contract, and get voting ready for membership. Would like to have Mary Fair-Matthews start on 1/1/2021 as permanent pastor. Committee Members are: Glen Cary, Bob Beltz, Barry Vavrina, Gretchen King, and Joy Sommers (Chair).

**Property Management Ministry Team: Bob Beltz** Dec 2019 – purchased & replaced lights on porch. Jan 2020 – put draino in both upstairs bathrooms, replaced light bulbs in +fixture at bottom of stairs, checked drains, called Drain Cleaner, met with Drain Cleaner (\$165), installed railings in sanctuary with help from Dave Hadley, met with GLCC Plumbers for estimate on upstairs bathrooms, GLCC replaced drains (\$175), worked on railings. June 2020 – Yard work, met with Zak regarding soffit on back of church. July 2020 – Zak repaired soffit, yard work. Aug 2020 – Home Team Power Clean power-washed church and 2 sides of the parsonage (\$685), yard work, trimmed hedges at church and parsonage, painted cross, yard work/trimming, cleaned around sign at extra parking lot. Rick Frey will do the Snow removal for this winter. Need to take the gates down at the parking lot, possibly later this month. Concrete on front steps is breaking – hoping to form it up and re-pour it.

## Administrative Council Minutes, continued

**Deacon Ministry Team: Gretchen King** Several requests for food. Unusual funeral luncheon – Olive’s meal served by the ‘staff’ – a lot of extra deep cleaning. May be extra requests/strain on the Food Pantry. If anyone in the congregation knows of someone that needs assistance, contact Roger Sommers. MACS has a Food Pantry that can also be a resource.

**Educational Ministry Team: Marcy Bonney** Children’s Sunday School – on hold, Anthony’s will be out through the end of this year. No Harvest Party Gathering. Samaritan’s Purse/Operation Christmas Child for 2020 – collection week is Nov. 16-23, 2020. Christmas Plans – to be determined.

**Nominating Committee: Roger Sommers** Presented the Proposed Slate of Officers for 2021. Motion by Mary Ivey to accept the proposed slate of officers, second by Marcy Bonney, motion carried.

**BOY SCOUTS** Scouts started meeting on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> at Ceresco Green. They plan to have their meetings there until it gets too cold. They will be responsible for cleaning/sanitizing after each meeting. Leader is Peter Brooks. If Tuesday morning Bible Study notices a problem from a Monday night, let Dawn know so it can be addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS/OPEN ITEMS:** Mary Ivey donated two arial pictures of Ceresco and the Church. Church Sign Update – Mary Ivey – discussed options. Mary will check with Marshall Township to see what is allowed before we proceed. Martha Circle/congregation – Haven of Rest Ministries – ongoing donations, box in the foyer. Approval of 2019 Annual Reports – updated with corrections from Dawn Frey and Mary Ivey. Motion by Gretchen King, second by Joanne Henley to accept the reports as presented. Halloween trick or treat is cancelled for 2020. Over-flow parking lot – PMMT needs to discuss and report back next time. Rick will talk to the roofers that are doing Olive Derrick’s old house to see what they would charge to do the church roof. Trash Disposal – paying \$160.45/quarter for our church refuse. Seems too high, Rick Frey getting pricing for different service. Charitable Union is going to have a coat drive, MACS is not. Family Fare receipts, we may want to collect these from the congregation to get money back from Family Fare.

Meeting closed in prayer by Gretchen at 10:54 am.

### Martha Circle Meeting Minutes, September 9, 2020

Members present: Darlene, Veronica & Viviana Anthony, Sharon Hadley, Donna Ruthruff, Ruth St. John, Vi Halder, Joanne Henley, Gretchen King, and Joy Sommers.

Vi opened our meeting with prayer, and gave devotion, reading “A Positive Attitude” and “How’s Your Attitude?” from One Minute Inspirations for Women. God says we should give thanks always, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Giving thanks has a powerful effect on your attitude. We’re called on to exhibit the same loving patience that Jesus exhibited.

Joy gave secretary/treasurer report, and read wish list from the Haven. Will include in the announcements on Sunday. American Baptist Churches wants us to do a community service project so we will incorporate our giving/church giving toward the Haven Ministries.

Joy read updates from the Guitierrez and Niles missionaries.

White cross roller bandages – what to do with them? Donate to Goodwill? Salvation Army? Charitable Union? A tree nursery? Joanne will do some checking.

Sunshine – Joanne sent cards as mentioned in the minutes from August.

Scholarship Girl is Veronica Anthony, motion by Joanne to give \$25, second by Ruth St. John for Veronica’s birthday last month.

Treasure Sale – Sharon update – willing to be in charge again next year! We raised \$807.25! We are giving \$200 to the Haven of Rest Ministries.

Special Offerings: World Mission Offering, America for Christ, and One Great Hour of Sharing – envelopes are upstairs. Motion to donate \$25 to each of these made by Joy, second by Donna, motion passed.

Scripture Reading – Proverbs 3:27-35, read by Viviana. We should help people when we can, and not put it off. “Be Kind to Others” We’ll plan on making one or two fleece blankets next month after the meeting.

Love Gift \$27.86, Devotional \$20.85

Meeting closed in prayer by Gretchen. Refreshments enjoyed by all.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 at 6 pm.



**SHARING GOOD NEWS,  
GREAT JOY!**

**DEAR FRIEND,**

Each shoebox you pack helps a local church around the world tell a child about Jesus, God's Greatest Gift. Many of them will grow in their faith and learn how to tell friends and family about Him through our discipleship program called The Greatest Journey.

In a new initiative, we are going island to island in the Pacific to take the Gospel to a half a million children over the next few years, as part of our commitment to *"proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation"* (Mark 16:15, ESV).



In sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we are also sharing God's Word with dozens of unreached people groups and going to hard-to-reach places to make His Name known.

This has resulted in more than 2 million children making decisions for Christ and over 1,000 churches being started in one year! For example, there's now a church in a remote village in Namibia among the Himba unreached people group.

"Before we had never heard of Jesus," said Pastor Kuyelia, leader of the new church. "Now, we have abandoned witch doctors and seek God alone in prayer and worship."

We're thankful for all those who have faithfully prayed for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project. You can join us in packing shoeboxes so that more children in the remote corners of the world can hear the Good News of the Gospel. May God bless you.

—**Franklin Graham**  
President, Samaritan's Purse



 **Do Not Include**

**National Collection Week is  
November 16-23, 2020. Boxes  
are available at the church.  
Please help if you can!**

Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.



## **PASTOR MARY'S REPORT, October 10, 2020**

2020 has been the most unusual year. As always, we have taken whatever comes our way in stride and have looked for the good in it as we deal with the bad. The shutdown of the United States, churches and places of worship was unprecedented. I believe the opportunity for the body of Christ was to realize that in-person Sunday morning worship is our preference and a beginning. However, we must also broaden our thinking around what it means to worship and fellowship. The church is not the building but the church resides in the heart of believers. The building provides a place to gather but the opportunity is to continue to take the Word of God to those outside of Ceresco walls.

The good thing is that we have broadened our out-reach by taking our services on-line which has allowed others to benefit from the word. It is a blessing that we should continue to explore. Huge thanks are in order to the Ceresco Family for its assistance in broadening our reach as well as getting us back into our sanctuary.

Thank you to Joy Sommers for taking the lead and ensuring that we could bring the Sunday morning message to the congregation through Facebook and YouTube. She also makes certain that each morning we each are able to have a shared focus brought to us through a devotion.

Thank you to the Worship Ministry Team for gathering on several occasions to discuss how to return to in-person worship when the time was right and how to do so safely. They were instrumental in making certain that we had the appropriate signage and safety messaging.

Thank you to the Freys for the relentless cleaning of the church so that when we enter the building on Sunday morning or any other time, we are confident that it has been sanitized.

Last but not least, I want to thank all of the Ceresco members for doing their part in making certain that we could return to worship in our own sanctuary, Bible Study and Sunday School. Your willingness and cooperation in changing how we gather and how we worship has made all the difference. It is because of you that we have been able to continue to worship together since June 7, 2020 without incident.

As we close out 2020, we have a few opportunities:

The biggest priority is resuming children services safely. We will work together on a plan on how we do so with a target date of January 2021.

We will step up our on-line programming with a focus on broader out-reach as we go into the winter months and flu season for those who may be sick and/or shut in.

On-Line Prayer Time

Explore with the Deacons whether there is a need to increase giving around the food pantry as we anticipate a likely recession and increased need.

Continued Pastoral Care in the following areas:

### **Member Care**

Latshaw Wedding  
Sommers Wedding

### **Funeral/Memorial Services**

Timothy Latshaw  
Bessie Ivey  
Irene Raabe  
Olive Derrick



# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
Pastor Mary is on vacation Oct. 9-15th						
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Communion Sunday		Bible Study 10 am				Administrative Council Meeting 9 am
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Rev. Owens Pulpit Supply	Pastor Mary's Birthday!	Bible Study 10 am				
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
		Bible Study 10 am				
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
		Bible Study 10 am	Information for November Messenger due by noon			Halloween  Set clocks BACK ONE HOUR, end of daylight savings time.

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