



Ceresco Baptist Church

The Ceresco Messenger

April 2021

Lent Reading Wrap-up for Sunday, April 4

Matthew 11:25 - 27, The Father Revealed in the Son

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶ Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷ "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

In the Still of the Night

There comes a time when quiet is a blessing. The tumult of the past days ... the tears and the despair and the darkness are almost overwhelming. It takes quiet to let it sink in.

Let the candle burn low tonight, a vigil a discovery of how all of history itself has rushed toward fulfillment .. prophets of old had their say and what they said was coming true,

In the quiet after Good Friday, the forces of all evil were poised for victory - but only poised! They didn't win. And tomorrow would come a startling new era!

A longing for answers settles in with the new intensity. What is the real meaning of all the things that have happened this past week? How can it be? ... God willing suffer? For me?

In one sense, the story of Lent and Easter is not the story of settling of account between good and evil. It is God settling accounts with Himself, making peace with Himself, being willing to pay the price to buy back His own. Easter is God coming to grips with the largesse of His unconditional love, willing to spend it all for the creation He loves.

Prayer: On this day, when the evening light falls softly on the page, listen and you will hear the words. "Come, for all things are now ready."

Christianity doesn't guarantee a smooth flight, but it does provide a safe landing!

Eternity is a long time to be wrong . . . A prayer a day keeps the devil away.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

When we have nothing left but God, we discover God is enough.

God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!



A few weeks ago, Pastor Mary spoke of how birds use their wings to get themselves going. But the Eagle will get going and then find a 'thermal' and use it to soar along. This is their resting place. The power of those wings to ride the 'thermals' and relax, yet carry the load is awesome.

At times we share with others issues in our lives that are very troublesome. They are always ready to share nice sayings that fit the situation, such as, "Let go and let God," - "Your faith will sustain you," - "Prayer is always the answer," - "Just remember, God is always in control." These all fit with the Word of God, but there always seems to be this little string of doubt that keeps pulling me back into the 'worry' mode.

While pondering on the analogy of Eagles riding the 'thermals' and putting it with Isaiah 40:31, I realize that this 'thermal' is our resting place after we turn our issues over to God.

WE CAN RELAX! HE'S GOT THE LOAD - WE GOT THE RESTING PLACE! ~ Sharon Hadley

Martha Circle Meetings Resumed in March

Minutes from Our March 10, 2021 Meeting:

"I Was There" - Josh Turner - listened to his song to start the devotions with, then Veronica gave devotions reading passages: Joshua 1:9 Be strong & courageous, Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you, Deuteronomy 31:6, be strong & courageous.

Secretary/Treasurer, Joy read the minutes from October & November 2020 meetings. Checking balance is currently \$958.26.

Sunshine - Darlene read Joanne's report - Send sympathy card to Matthews', Bob Beltz after hernia surgery. Will catch us up next time on other cards she has sent.

Scholarship Girl - Veronica continues virtual H.S. and will be in-person for KCC classes. Her Community service hours have been completed!

Sharon made a motion, 2nd by Joyce to donate \$25 to the America for Christ Offering, motion carried.

New Business - should we start the Bake Sale up again? We'll wait until we have a new project. Family Fare Receipts - we can collect them to get money. We should start saving them for our church so when the program resumes, we can participate. We will participate with Direct Your Dollars and Direct Your Labels. Joy will put info in bulletin & April Messenger, and put boxes in foyer for collection.

We should all keep our ears open for people that need assistance in case we can help them.

Hostess Schedule will be setup at our next meeting (April 14th - Joyce Cary). We'll move our election of officers to September for the following calendar year. Will maintain current officers for the rest of this year (elected Aug 2020).

Tentatively planning to have the Treasure Sale on August 21, 2021. Joy will check with Dawn on church availability. [Note - Aug 21 and 28 are both currently available per Dawn]

Love Gift \$11.00, Devotion \$10.00

Meeting closed in prayer by Darlene. We then enjoyed refreshments. Our next meeting is April 14, 2021 at 6:00 pm. Meetings are open to all the ladies of the church.

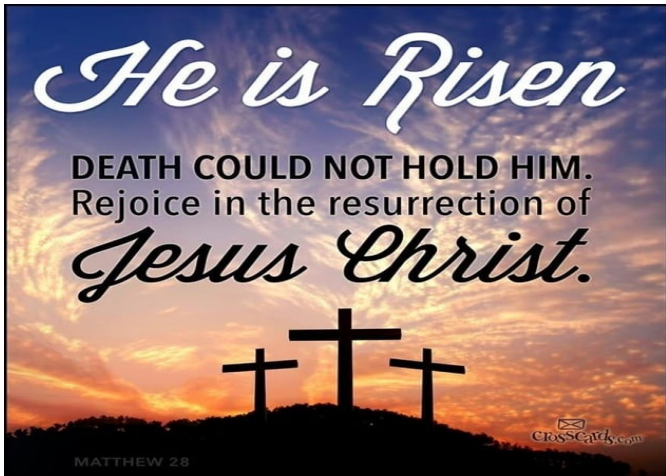


Apr 1 Emily Biljum
 Apr 6 Zane Ivey
 Apr 10 Jenny Markos
 Apr 13 Ruth Paschen
 Apr 14 Reed Goodman
 Apr 16 Darlene Anthony
 Apr 16 Charity Gary
 Apr 19 Don St. John
 Apr 24 Stacey Goodman
 Apr 30 Katherine Anthony Rogers

May 3 Valerie Kibby
 May 3 Stephen Phelps
 May 5 Jayme Biljum
 May 5 Alex Finch
 May 6 Jared Babcock
 May 15 Marcy Bonney
 May 19 Heather Casey
 May 24 Patricia Ivey
 May 25 Diane Biljum
 May 25 Melissa Boysen
 May 26 Shawn Skinner



Apr 4 Rick & Dawn Frey #40
 Apr 5 Roger & Joy Sommers #25
 May 2 Scott & Melissa Boysen
 May 6 Craig & Nicole Thomas
 May 21 Jason & Emily Ivey



Quiz Question . . .

“Where was a door open?” Hint: Told by the Apostle John

Answer next month!

Last month’s Q&A: What does ‘amen’ mean?
 “So be it.”

If your family birthday or anniversary is missing or is incorrect, please send an email to Joy Sommers at: cerescobaptist@gmail.com
 Thank you!

Ceresco Baptist Church
Administrative Council MINUTES - March 13, 2021

Moderator Rick Frey opened the meeting with a devotion of "Wait Three Days" - the story of the crucifixion and Easter. When things go wrong, just wait three days.

Clerk's Report

Minutes from the Oct. 2020 meeting were in the Messenger.

2. Send thank you notes to those that did the snow removal, Jim Hunsicker, Justin Casey, Rick Frey, and Trey Casey.

Financial Secretary - Dawn Frey

General totals for January - February 2020. \$ 9,582.11 / January - February 2021. \$ 11,968.00

Treasurer's Report - Mary Ivey reports were handed out, discussion followed. In/Out fund - \$50 for Outreach Missions, motion by Joy Sommers, second by Gretchen King to donate the \$50 to the Haven of Rest Ministries. Motion passed. Mention special offerings Monthly report to the Region Office, has a line item for Love Gift.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Mary: Thank you to everyone for all they've done during the pandemic months. Hoping for a more normal Easter season. Would like us to plan an event for the children. Keep adding things back in the coming months. Would like to be able to go out and do communion to the shut ins.

MACS Report - Marcy Bonney: Have had Zoom Meeting, hoping to resume normal meetings in May. Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Joy Sommers to have Marcy continue to be the representative of CBC for MACS, motion passed

Worship Ministry Team - Mary Ivey: Daylight Savings - tonight, move clocks ahead one hour, March 27th - First Day of Passover, March 28th - Palm Sunday, Cerestrrio (verses) & Congregation (chorus) singing "Living for Jesus" #413, Joy to order palms for Palm Sunday, April 1st - Maundy Thursday Service at 6 pm, April 2nd - Good Friday Service at 6 pm, April 4th - Easter Sunday: Son Rise Service at 8 am. Then we will have our Regular Service at 9:45 am. Reginald Matthews will provide refreshments between the two services. Easter - We would like people to bring Easter Lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday. Next Meeting is April 8th at 4:00 pm. Pew Bibles and Hymnals have been returned to the pews! Dave Hadley is repairing the old lectern that was donated in 1913.

Property Management Ministry Team - Bob Beltz: New Roof for Church is done, and it looks great! Rick Frey painted the steeple too! Thermostat in the Sunday School classroom hall, and the settings on it are not right. Somebody is changing it to extremes. Maybe we should put a cover over it. Need to reprogram the automatic thermostats for the time change/etc. Refuse Service - has been canceled since we have very little waste. Frey's are putting the trash in their own containers now, and the rental house has their own refuse service now too. Just an FYI - there is recycling available.

Deacon Ministry Team - Gretchen King: Palm Sunday - Brunch is back! Communion continues with single serve elements for now. Regular meetings with Pastor on Sunday mornings prior to the worship service. There have not been very many requests for food, as people have been able to get help elsewhere.

Educational Ministry Team - Marcy Bonney: Resumed with Children's Time on March 7th. Will be asking for volunteers to do Children's time. Haven't had anyone but adults staying for Sunday School. Will resume other classes when people are here for them. Junior Church - we will wait until we have kids on a regular basis. Fellowship Sundays - not sure when we'll resume yet. The Family Night Potlucks - not sure when we'll resume yet. Mary Ivey mentioned maybe we should plan a movie once in awhile.

Boy Scouts - Meetings resumed Monday, March 8, 2021 - they are only using the old fellowship hall. They are sanitizing afterwards.

Administrative Council Meeting Minutes continued:

New Business/Open Items:

1. Church Sign Update - Mary Ivey - has been in contact with the company that has signs with changeable letters. Mary has a quote with a mock-up of what the signs would look like. Broadcast (6') \$7,520 or Classic (10') is \$8,035. Mary has letter from the township on the requirements. Council voted between the two, and it was a tie. Rick made the tie-breaking vote to get the 6' sign. Mary giving all the information to PMMT to proceed with the sign. Motion by Joy Sommers, second by Marcy Bonney to use the \$965 in the Future Vision Fund, and the remaining funds to come from the Souder Fund to cover the purchase of the sign, and all other costs associated with getting it installed/ready for use. Motion passed. When Mary talked to Paul at the Township, and he will consider the old sign as a bulletin board, so we don't have to have any special permit to move it to the side of the church.
2. Approval of 2020 Annual Reports - Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Dawn Frey to approve the 2020 Annual Reports as presented with corrections. Motion passed.
3. Request to use Fellowship Hall for Relay for Life meetings (Joy) - limit to 25 people total, use only one door for entry, motion by Gretchen King, second by Bob Beltz to offer the church to Relay for Life on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, limit to 25 people, for three months (Apr, May, June), with Joy to sanitize after each meeting. Motion carried.
4. The property owner behind us would like to purchase some of the vacant land the church has behind the church, probably a 5' strip, as his shed is partly on church property. Motion by Mary Ivey, second by Joy Sommers to have Rick Frey/PMMT investigate further as to what would be required to sell the strip of land to the individual. Motion carried.
5. Family Fare Receipts - there will be a box in the foyer for collection.
6. Sharon Hadley - storage room by the basement stairs - she would like to re-organize with better shelving, etc. Motion by Marcy Bonney, second by Mary Ivey to allow Sharon to re-organize the storage room. Motion passed.
7. Mary Ivey - we have \$206.92 in the Parking Lot Fund. Motion by Mary Ivey to give \$50 to Rick Frey and \$50 to Justin Casey for gasoline for the snow plowing they have been doing this winter, money to be paid from the parking lot fund. Motion carried with one nay (Bob).
8. Dawn Frey - Church Address Book needs to be updated - Joy is working on it.
9. Organ in sanctuary - was donated to the church in 1984. Sometimes has a static sound coming out of it. Pedals are sometimes vibrating loudly. Our service man has retired, so he gave Mary the name of a man in Lansing. At some point we may be without the organ for awhile. Conn Organs

Next Quarterly Council Meeting will be on June 5th.

Minutes from Special Meeting, February 21, 2021:

Lay Moderator Rick Frey reminded us that we have been collecting money to re-do the church roof for a few years. We have reached our goal! Rick has been in contact with an Amish gentleman that has done roofing work for a couple of our church members. The quote he received was \$18,500 for a steel roof from All-Star Roofing. There will be a price increase on March 1st and another price increase on March 15th. With that being said, we would like to get the order placed so we can beat the price increase. The roof will be a tan color.

Motion by Ed Kirkland, second by Mary Ivey to accept the quote for the roof, motion passed by a show of hands.

Calhoun County Recycling Information!

Did you know? Calhoun County Residents can access the C&C Landfill Recycling Center for free. This program is limited to residential recycling, and all participants must have a program card to recycle for free. Residents can pick up a program card from their local municipality or township. The C&C Landfill Recycling Center is located at 14800 P Drive North, Marshall, MI. Ph# 269-789-9742. Center is open 7 am - 4:30 pm, Mon - Fri, and 7 am - noon Saturdays.

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar. 28	3/29	3/30	3/31	1	2	3
Palm Sunday & Brunch!		Bible Study 10 am		Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm	Good Friday Service 6 pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Sunday & Deacon Offering Sunday		Bible Study 10 am Fellowship Hall in use 6-9 pm, Relay for Life Meeting		Worship Ministry Team Mtg at 4 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Bible Study 10 am	Martha Circle 6:00 pm			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Bible Study 10 am Fellowship Hall in use 6-9 pm, Relay for Life Meeting				
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
		Bible Study 10 am	Information for MayMessenger due by noon			

In the Garden

1912

... she turned around and saw Jesus standing there ... John 20:14

The art of meditating on Scripture involves using one's imagination. Instead of simply reading a passage, we must read it, close our eyes, and visualize the scene, perhaps even putting ourselves in the picture. That's what the author of this hymn did.

C. Austin Miles was a pharmacist who began writing gospel songs and eventually became an editor of hymnals and songbooks, as well as a popular music director at camp meetings, conventions, and churches. His hobby was photography, and he found his darkroom perfect for developing, not just his photographs, but his devotional life. In its privacy and strange blue glow, Miles could read his Bible in total privacy.

One day in March, 1912, while waiting for some film to develop, he opened the Bible to his favorite chapter, John 20, the story of the first Easter. Miles later said: "As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene . . . My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and hurried away. John, in flowing robe, appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

"As they departed, Mary reappeared, leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb. She wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched and looking into his face, cried, 'Rabboni!'

"I awakened in full light, gripping my Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words would be formed the poem exactly as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music."

In addition to "In the Garden," Austin Miles is the author of several other gospel songs, including "A New Name in Glory," "Dwelling in Beulah Land," and "If Jesus Goes with Me I'll Go Anywhere."

We sang this song on Good Friday
It's interesting to see what inspired
this beautiful song.